Proceedings of the Second Session of the First Assam Legislative Assembly, assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935

The Assembly met at the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 1st September, 1937

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

287
288
289 } (Member absent).

Prevalence of Malaria in Assam

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

*290. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge state--

(*a*) Total number of persons suffering from malaria during the years 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37 in Assam ?

(*b*) Total number of deaths from malaria during the years referred to above showing the figures year by year ?

*291. (*a*) If the figures in answer to question (*a*) above are supplied then, how the figures have been obtained ?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that a very large number of cases of malaria and deaths in consequence thereof have escaped notice of the authorities and not included in the figures supplied above ?

*292. (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that nearly 30 per cent. of the people of British India suffer annually from malaria as mentioned before the Central Advisory Board of Health ?

(*b*) If not, what is the percentage of people suffering annually from malaria in British India ?

(*c*) What is the average annual percentage of the people of Assam suffering from malaria for the last three years ?

*293. What is the cost of production per lb. of quinine and cinchona respectively ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

290. (*a*)—Government have no information as regards the number of people *suffering* from malaria. The following figures relate to persons treated for malaria—

1934	...	...	...	...	...	671,277
1935	...	...	...	...	...	836,912
1936	...	...	...	...	...	739,871

(*b*)—The figures are not available as deaths from malaria are included in the statistics under the general head "Fevers".

From Government reports it appears that the number of deaths from malaria in 1934 was 79, in 1935, 116, and in 1936, 133.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : What is the basis of this report, Sir, regarding death from malaria ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It is taken from the report of the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

291. (*a*)—From Registers maintained in Hospitals and Dispensaries.

(*b*)—Undoubtedly.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Will Government take statistics in future of deaths due to malaria ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Statistics are taken from the hospitals and dispensaries report that we have got. I have already stated the number of deaths in these three years from the statistics we got from dispensaries and hospitals.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : But the number of deaths is far greater than the number shown here. The figures given are 79, 116, and 133 ; but there are many deaths in villages. Those statistics may be taken in future. May I know whether Government is prepared to have statistics of deaths from malaria in villages in future ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It may be somewhat difficult to find out the number of deaths from malaria in villages if these cases are not treated by doctors; but however we shall try to see i there is any way by which we can know whether these people die of malaria or of some kind of fever.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI : Deaths in villages are reported to thana officers and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will be able to get statistics from thana officers.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Statistics from thana officers are not collected. All that we have got in our report of the Hospitals and dispensaries.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA : Is it not a fact that a death register is kept in the Civil Surgeon's office collected from the gaonburas of different mauzas of the Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : It is difficult to know whether these persons die of malaria or of some other kind of fever, such as typhoid. Unless the patients have been treated by doctors on account of malaria it cannot be declared that those persons died of malaria.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : What is the utility of the Public Health Department ? Is not the Public Health Department in charge of this information ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The Public Health Department have different centres in different loca ities.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH : Is not the Public Health Department kept informed of what are the most prevalent diseases in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I think, Sir, that almost anybody can understand that malaria is the most prevalent disease in the whole of Assam.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA : Are not the registers of births and deaths of different villages kept in the Civil Surgeon's office collected from gaonburas with assigned reasons of death ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : These are supposed to be collected by gaonburas and kept in the Civil Surgeon's office, but these gaonburas do not know the nature of the disease. They can report the death to be due to malaria, but it may be due to something else.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Can they not give an approximate idea ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have already stated that we shall try to see whether there is any possibility of finding out the actual number of deaths from mal ria ; but it is difficult to say unless all these men who are suffering from malaria are trea ed and declared by doctors to be so.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Shall we wait till the Dooms Day ?

(No reply)

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

292. (*a*)—The hon. member has apparently taken this figure from a recently published note submitted by Sir H. Gidney to the Central Advisory Health Board. The figure may be approximately correct but Government have no method of checking it.

(*b*)—Government have no exact information.

(*c*)—Government have no information.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Are Government prepared to collect figures and find out the percentage in future ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The question is ' if not, what is the percentage of people suffering annually from malaria in British India ' ?

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : I mean Assam.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : If it be the question of Assam, then we shall try to collect the figures.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the percentage of people suffering from malaria in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : We have no information, Sir.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

293.—Rupees 6 548. From the report of the Government of Bengal on Cinchona cultivation it appears that the cost of production of a pound of quinine in 1935-36 was Rs. 6·548 as against Rs. 7·72 in 1934-35. No information is available as regards the cost price of a pound of Cinchona.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : What is the price paid at present by Local Bodies and Government for purchasing quinine and cinchona from Bengal ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I cannot tell that just now, but if the hon. member wants, I can ascertain it.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Is Government prepared to produce cinchona in this province through the Experts of our Agricultural Department ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, we shall indeed be very glad to have our own quinine and cinchona. The question of cinchona is engaging the attention of Government but whether they will be able to do it or not is another question.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Is Government prepared to consider the matter ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, we considered the matter before the House was actually called. We wrote to Bengal as we wanted to discuss with the Experts of Bengal. We also consulted some of our Forest Officers whether we could have cinchona plantation in Assam.

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA : Is it a fact that lands were acquired in Mikir Hills for cinchona plantation ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Lands were obtained in Mikir Hills but the chincona cultivation was given up as it was not found profitable.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : May I know the reason why it was given up ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have already told that it was not profitable.

Compilation of accounts on Archæological remains

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

*294. Will Government please state whether they have any historical account of the temples, mosques and satras in Assam showing the dates of establishment, names of the founders, lands given as grants with other valuable properties and paiks for their maintenance, and idols, copper plates and other inscriptions, etc.?

*295. If not, do Government propose to depute an officer on special duty to compile such accounts?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Before giving reply to the quest on, I want to ask the hon. member whether he means temples or the archæological remains.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : We cannot hear, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : May I know whether the hon. member means temples or the archæological remains ?

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : I mean, Sir, old temples and old mosques, etc.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister wants to know whether there were any archæological remains.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : There are some which contain archæological remains others which do not.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

294.—These institutions are private institutions and Government do not propose to have any historical account of these things. Government have information about a large number of archæological remains and their history but such information is by no means complete.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Did not the Government depute a certain teacher of a High School as a special officer before to collect certain accounts of some archæological remains in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Yes, Sir, a teacher was deputed for collecting archæological remains in Assam.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : What has become of the accounts collected by that gentleman ? Have they been published in the form of any account by Government ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : Not yet, Sir.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Do the Government propose to publish it ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That will be published by the Historical Department.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

295.—No.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Do Government consider it necessary to compile accounts of archæological remains and also of old institutions now ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : After the publication of the accounts we will consider that question.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : Sir, I could not hear.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, my Hon'ble Colleague says that after the publication of the report by the officer, the question of compilation will be considered by Government.

MAULAVI Muhammad AMJAD ALI : Does the Hon'ble Chief Minister propose to apply the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act in regard to it.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : these In regard to what ?

MAULAVI Muhammad AMJAD ALI : In regard to preservation of accounts.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : The accounts cannot be preserved by the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.

Managing Committee of the Senairam High English School

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH asked :

*296. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Managing Committee of the Senairam High English School, Tinsukia, applied for an increase of the grant-in-aid to the school ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the then Hon'ble Minister for Education recommended the increase of the grant in November 1935, and

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction assured the increase of the grant from 1935 ?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether any budget provision has been made this year for the purpose ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

296.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—The Director of Public Instruction promised to increase the grant as soon as funds permitted.

(*d*).—Yes.

Improvement of Agricultural System in Assam

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

*297. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to—

(*a*) state whether steps are being taken to improve the Agricultural system in Assam ?

(*b*) state whether any arrangement has been made for the study of Agricultural subject ?

(*c*)(*i*) Is it a fact that the system of Embankment and Drainage is urgently required for the improvement of Agriculture ?

(*ii*) If so, what steps the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to take in the matter ?

(*d*) state the area of the province affected by flood ?

(*e*) state the value of the crops damaged annually for the last fifteen years in the district of Sylhet, thana by thana ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

297.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes. There are two training classes attached to the Jorhat and Sylhet Farms.

(*c*)(*i*) and (*ii*)—Government have no doubt that an Irrigation Division attached to the Public Works Department could do a lot to improve matters but so far they have not been able to afford one.

(*d*)and(*e*)—Government have no information. The labour involved in compiling the figures will not be commensurate with the result.

Number of Middle English Schools in the Province

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

*298. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to—

(*a*) state the number of Middle English Schools, subdivision by subdivision, in the province ?

(*b*) state the number of Middle English Schools (*i*) financed by Government, (*ii*) aided by Government, (*iii*) aided by the Local Boards and (*iv*) otherwise ?

(*c*) state whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge proposes to provincialise all the Middle English Schools in the province?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

298.(*a*) to (*b*)—The information is not available. It has been called for.

(*c*)—No. The policy of Government is to aid such schools but not to provincialize them.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are the Government aware that the Local Boards are not entitled to increase the number of Middle English Schools that are at present maintained by them ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Yes, Sir. I think the Local Boards are competent to make grants to Middle English schools.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are the Government also aware that Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners are insisting on the Local Boards to discontinue the grants that are being made at present to the Middle English Schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Yes, Sir, we are aware of that.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: If the Local Boards discontinue the grant and the Government also do not propose to take up these schools what will be their fate ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: They are included under secondary schools and will share the provision under that head.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: Do Government propose to make provision for the secondary schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: Yes, Sir, increased provision for secondary schools has already been passed by the House.

Proceedings of the Municipal Boards

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH asked :

*299. Will Government please state whether the proceedings of the Municipal Boards in this province are confidential ?

*300. Will Government please state—

(*a*) whether the Representatives of the Press are allowed to attend the meetings of the Local or Municipal Boards and (*b*) if not, why not ?

*301. Is it a fact that the Shillong Representative of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* was refused permission by the Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board on the 29th April 1937 to enable him to report the proceedings of the said Board ?

*302. Will Government please state the contents of the letter of the Representative of the *Patrika* and the reply of the Vice-Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board on the subject ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

299.—The minutes of the proceedings of a Municipal Board are not confidential as under rule 3 of Part VIII of the Rules made under the Municipal Act they have to be posted on the Municipal Notice Board—and under section 38(*i*) of the Municipal Act, they are open to inspection by tax-payers free of charge. Members of the public may however be excluded from the meetings of a Board under section 34 of the Act.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: That is with regard to the minutes of the proceedings, but what about the proceedings of the meetings ? Is it open to the public ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already answered, Sir, that members of the public may however be excluded from the meetings of a Board under section 34 of the Act.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: I want to know whether they can be excluded only on special occasions, in anticipation of any disturbance in the meeting or whether they can be excluded by the Chairman as a matter of right.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That will depend on the decision of the Chairman of the Board.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: What is the principle underlying that rule ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Well, Sir, that is the provision of the Act.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain to the House the underlying principle of that rule, and whether he approves of it ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is not the question, here.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

300.—All members of the public (including press representatives) have the right to attend Municipal Board meetings under section 34 of the Act but the President of the meeting has the right to exclude them if he thinks fit. Members of the public (including press representatives) have no legal right of attending meetings of Local Boards.

SRIJUT LAKHESWAR BAROOAH: Under what condition and circumstances can the President exclude public (including press representative) ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is to be decided by the President.

SRIJUT DABESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government amend these rules which are against the trend of the modern world thought.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is not the question now.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: On a point of order, Sir. Are these answers worth the salary they are going to seek today.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Is the hon. member in order, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What is the hon. member's question ?

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has been giving evasive replies—I cannot use any other word—and there is a Salary Bill for the Ministers today. I am just enquiring, if you will allow me, whether the answers are worth the salary they are seeking and swallowing.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I am not to judge the matter. If the hon. member thinks like that he can proceed in the matter in various other ways open to him.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: I bow down to your ruling, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

301.—The Press representative named applied for a *general permission* to attend meetings of the Board and this was refused.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA: Under what ground that permission was refused ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Under the same grounds that I have already stated several times before the House.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Is it a fact that because the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is a nationalist paper, its representative was refused admission ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information regarding that, Sir.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

302.—A copy of letter No.1323M., dated the 29th April 1937, from the Vice-Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board to the Editor is given below—

"With reference to your letter No. 2/Ap./1937, dated the 17th April 1937, requesting to grant press tickets to your representative to enable him to report the proceedings of the Shillong Municipal Board, I am directed by the Chairman to inform you that no general permission can be given to the public. We are bound to follow the Assam Municipal Act regarding exclusion of the public from the meeting".

Government consider that the letter is not clearly worded as it gives the impression that under the Assam Municipal Act the public are excluded. The attention of the Chairman will be drawn to this.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Who was the Vice-Chairman at that time?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS--ROY: I do not know, Sir, whether he was the new Vice-Chairman, or the outgoing Vice-Chairman.

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMA: Has the Chairman any authority to bring police to guard the meetings of Local Boards and Municipalities?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I do not know, Sir, I have nothing to do with the police.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government please state—not his individual opinion, but the policy of Government whether he considers that the Press is the best watch dog (if I am permitted to use that word) of public interests?

THE HON'BLE REV J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Does that question arise, Sir? It is a question of opinion.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, my question relates to the policy of Government.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister may say whether it is the policy of Government to give the Press reasonable facilities in these public meetings, or to exclude them.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Well, Sir, if you allow me, I shall answer. These local bodies are all self-governing bodies and Government expects them to utilise their individual opinion in regard to these matters. If the local bodies, which have been elected by the people, decide not to allow press representatives why should Government interfere? It is not the policy of Government to interfere with the decision of local bodies.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Then, why are the Commissioners allowed to poke their nose in the affairs of the local boards?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Well, Sir, when any emergency arises that is likely to cause a breach of public peace, it is the duty of the Government to interfere.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: May I know who is the Chairman of the Board?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M, NICHOLS-ROY: The Chairman of the Board is the Deputy Commissioner.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Then may I take it that this was an official order excluding the press representative from the meetings of the Boards?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I do not know whether it was the order of the Deputy Commissioner or the order of the Board.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Was the order put up before a meeting of the Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information, Sir.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enquire whether the letter was placed before the Board in a meeting, and whether it was the decision of the members in a meeting that the representative of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* should be excluded from its meetings ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M NICHOLS-ROY: I will enquire, Sir.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: As far as I understand, Sir, a discretion has been given to the Chairman regarding outsiders. I want to know whether that discretion is legal or arbitrary ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is a question of opinion.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want to know whether the discretion is to be exercised legally or arbitrarily ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Does that question arise, Sir ? Of course, the Board will act legally.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: I want a ruling of the chair on this point.

[No reply.]

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: May I know whether the representative of the *Patrika* is the same man who has been photographed and stationed together, with the Hon'ble Chief Minister ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I do not think that this question arises.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the representative of the *Statesman* has got general permission to attend meetings ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have no information, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Chairman of the Municipality excluded the representative of the press without consulting the members of the Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Which Municipality, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The Municipality under question, Sir.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I have already answered all these questions.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI: My question has not been answered whether that discretion is legal or arbitrary ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Anybody can understand what they are to do.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Chairman of the Municipality excluded the press representative without consulting the members of the Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am not aware of that.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA : Will the Government issue a circular to all Local Boards not to exclude press representatives ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Under the Act the Government cannot do that.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Government be pleased to issue circulars to the Chairmen that in such matters they should always take the opinion of the Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The Chairman is related to the Board, and the Board can take action against him if they like.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Are any of the Chairmen allowing any press representatives to attend the meetings of the Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I am not aware.

Number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons selected by Public Service Commission

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

*303. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have been selected by the Public Service Commission for the Public Health Department ?

(*b*) The maximum age limit of these posts ?

(*c*) The name and age at the time of selection of each of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons newly appointed by the Public Service Commission ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

303. (*a*)—Seven.

(*b*)—The ordinary age limit is 25 years but the Head of the Department has the power to relax the rule.

(*c*)—

his resignation).

1. Dr. Kshitish Chandra Chaudhury ... ... 24 years 7 months.
2. Dr. Gangadhar Das ... ... 26 years.
3. Dr. Toberlyn Lyngdoh ... ... 27 years 4 months.
4. Dr. Mina Ram Laskar ... ... 25 years 7 months.
5. Dr. Galbeston Shullai ... ... 27 years 6 months.
6. Dr. Gajendra Nath Kachari ... ... 31 years 2 months.
7. Dr. K. Goldsmith (who has since submitted 37 years 2 months.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : May I know if any of these people have had previous experience ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Yes, some of them have had, I think.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Were any of them with no previous experience ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : I have no information.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Will the Hon'ble Minister please enquire ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Yes, we can do that if it is necessary, but what is the necessity ?

Ryots of Amguri-Kharikatia Mouza

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

*304. Will Government be pleased to state—

Whether a number of *ryots* in Amguri-Kharikatia mouza in Jorhat subdivision who have settled near Tengajan by reclaiming waste lands and have been getting annual *patta* for the last 10 or 12 years, are threatened to be evicted by the East India Company. If so what is their number and why ?

(*a*) If it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, has informed the *ryots* concerned that annual leases will be cancelled and will not be renewed henceforth to them ?

(*b*) If the question (*a*) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state under what authority the lands measuring about 1,245 bigha standing in the names of about 120 families are going to be made over to the East India Company ?

(*c*) Will Government enquire about the extent of loss and trouble to the *ryots* in consequence of this forcible eviction ?

(*d*) Has the Government received a memorial from the *ryots* and if so what steps did the Government take on this subject ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

304.—Non-renewal notices have been issued to the occupants of the grant land. There are about 120 families who had occupied the Company's land.

(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The villagers have reclaimed 598*B*-1*k*-5*l* of the grant land under the impression that the area was Government waste, as the grantee did not properly keep the grant well demarcated. The mistake being discovered, the villagers have been served with non-renewal notices under clause 3 of the lease.

(*c*)—The garden authorities have since expressed their willingness to sublet 40 acres of the land to 40 of the occupants on a nominal rent. A further correspondence has been made by the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain if the entire area occupied by the villagers can be sublet on rent failing which Sub-Deputy Collector has been asked to give these people first preference in settlement of waste land where available but he is trying to see whether they cannot be left undisturbed if they pay a nominal rent to the grant holders (garden authorities).

(*d*)—Yes. The Deputy Commissioner is being asked to examine the original lease issued to the Company to see if any action is possible under law to keep the land in occupation of the *ryots* in question.

Cattle Epidemic

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

*305. Will Government be pleased to state—(*a*) Whether it is a fact that cattle epidemic on an extensive scale is going on this year in various parts of the Province ? Has the Government taken any notice of the loss that paddy cultivation suffers on this ground ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to grant grazing grounds proportionate to the number of cattle by disforestation of the Government reserve ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to make suitable arrangement for water-supply to the cattle in times of water scarcity ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

305.(*a*)—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is clear that the loss of ploughing cattle must have had an adverse effect on cultivation.

(*b*)—No. There were already large areas of lands reserved as village and professional grazing grounds. It is always open to the local people to approach the Deputy Commissioner to reserve more land for the purpose.

(*c*)—The problem of the supply of water to human beings in time of scarcity must be solved before anything can be done for cattle.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Is the Government aware of the fact that a large number of villagers in the Madhabpur thana, *i.e.*, in villages Itakhola, Nawapara, etc., have been applying for getting some lands in the Forest Reserve for cattle grazing?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: I am not aware of that. No petition has been received.

Award of Medical Scholarship

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked:

*306. Is it a fact that a medical scholarship could not be awarded by the Public Service Commission and had to be referred to his Excellency the Governor? If so, why?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

306.—Scholarships are awarded by the Government and not by the Public Service Commission. The latter is only an advisory body.

Consumption of Quinine

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI asked:

*307. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The steps taken by Government to increase the consumption of quinine both as preventive and as curative means in Assam?

(*b*)(*i*) The total quantity of quinine distributed free annually by Government and (*ii*) the principle of distribution?

(*c*) The steps taken by Government to cheapen the price of quinine?

(*d*) The total amount of quinine manufactured annually by Government of Assam during the last three years?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

307.(*a*)—To increase the consumption of quinine in Assam, Quinine Sulphate which was sold at Re.0-4-6 per treatment was replaced by a smaller treatment of Quinine Re-inforced Cinchona Febrifuge which is sold at annas 2 per treatment.

The number of Agents for the sale of quinine treatments has also been increased. Quinine treatment is sold by Government at cost price. In addition to this, 4,500lbs. of quinine has been received from the Government of India as a free gift and is being distributed free to indigent malaria patients. Government purchase about Rs.5,000 worth of quinine for free distribution to specially malarious localities.

(*b*)(*i*) and (*ii*)—The following quantities of Quinine Sulphate and Cinchona were issued free for distribution to indigent malaria patients in the badly affected areas in 1934, 1935 and 1936—

	Quinine Sulph.				Cinchona			
	lb.	oz.	dr.	gr.	lb.	oz.	dr.	gr.
1934	1,000	12	6	50	1,276	8	0	57
1935	1,558	3	0	18	2,222	1	1	10
1936	3,337	4	6	24	964	8	5	20

(*c*)—Government buy their quinine from Bengal Government and sell it at cost price. Government cannot cheapen the price which is fixed by the Government of Bengal.

(*d*)—Quinine is not manufactured in Assam.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: As regards the free distribution of quinine, will the Hon'ble Minister please let us know the agency through which the quinine is distributed ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Through the Post Office, Medical Dispensaries and Public Health Dispensaries.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that people have to undergo great hardship even at the time of epidemic to get free quinine ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I should have said that the Post Offices sell quinine, but free distribution is made from the Medical and Public Health dispensaries. I think quinine can be got from despensaries easily.

Curriculum in secondary schools

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked:

*308. Is it a fact that the curricula for the girls and boys in secondary schools in Assam are practically the same ?

*309. If the answer to 308 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to revise the curriculum in such a way as to suit the special requirements of the boys and girls ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

308.—In literary subjects the curricula are practically the same.

This cannot be avoided as long as Calcutta University sets the same standard for boys and girls in the Matriculation Examination.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the curriculum contains books on history which contain lies ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I am not aware of it. I might add this. The books are prescribed by the Board of Studies of the Calcutta University on which there are responsible persons.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: May I refer to the History of India, Sir, by Marsden in which there is a mention of the Black Hole Tragedy of Calcutta the truth of which has long been exploded.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That might be.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has the Hon'ble Minister any scheme for revision of the curriculum for recommending the same to the University ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The University has its own Board of studies on which there are great educationists.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: The answer to my question was that it might be so. Is the Hon'ble Minister going to countenance that lies will be taught in our schools ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That becomes rather hypothetical.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Is he aware that all books written by the Inspector of Schools have been prescribed as text-books ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: There is a Text-Book Committee here on which there are representative members who prescribe the books.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Does Government consider the necessity of excluding books by men of the Education Department ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That is a matter for the Text-Book Committee and there are educationists on the Committee and representatives of the communities also.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Does he not consider it necessary to have a different curriculum for females ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have answered that question. That is a matter for the University unless we have our own Board of Secondary Education.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Has he his own opinion on the matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Are we concerned with individual opinions in such matters, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: No.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

309.—This is a matter for the University.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI: On a point of information ; may I know whether the curriculum from Class VIII downwards are also matters for the University ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: No. But they must be graduated in order to lead on to the matriculation standard.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI: If there is a change in the curriculum of the Calcutta University, should not there be a change in the curriculum of the lower classes also ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: That must form a ground work for the Classes IX and X, the Matriculation which are under the University.

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI: That is no answer to my question. My question was that if there is a change in the Calcutta University for the Matriculation examination whether there will not be a corresponding change or adjustment in the lower classes, as the Hon'ble Minister spoke about a graduated standard ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: There should be.

Distribution of central grant for village improvement

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked:

*310. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*i*) The distribution of the total grant from Government of India for village re-construction work under different heads, district by district ? and

(*ii*) The principle which has been followed in making allocation of the grant to the different districts ?

*311. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether Government issued any direction to district authorities as to how the money was to be distributed ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

310. (*i*)—A statement showing the distribution of the grant of 5 lakhs received from the Government of India in 1935-36 is laid on the* table. The allotment for irrigation purposes was not distributed on a district basis but was utilized by the Agricultural Department.

(*ii*)—The hon. member is referred to the Report in connection with the special grants from the Government of India for rural development which was presented to the Assembly at this Session.

311.—Commissioners of Divisions were directed to distribute the allotment for village roads in the plains districts on the basis of local rate receipts.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Will the Hon'ble Minister state why the local boards were not entrusted with the rural re-construction operation, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : The district officers can use the local boards as their agents as one of the conditions of the grant from the Government of India is that the district officers must have the maximum amount of control.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Why this distrust of local boards, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That is the condition laid down by the Government of India.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to recommend to the Government of India that the local boards should be more generously treated in this matter ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, we have received the grant on certain conditions and the Government of Assam has to carry them out.

MR. HIRENDRA CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY : Are the Government aware that due to dual control there is anomaly everywhere ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : As far as I am aware, Sir, so far as the grants have been utilised very peacefully ; only from one local board I have heard that there was some trouble.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Has not the Hon'ble Minister for local Self-Government any duty when encroachments are made on the domain of local self-governing bodies by an extraneous authority ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : We receive the grant from the Government of India and we are bound to carry out the conditions laid down by them.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA : Does the question of recommendation arise ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : So far as I understand the question is whether the Ministry is ready to recommend to the Government of India to do away with these conditions.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : May I enquire whether this condition is imposed not by the Government of India but by the Government of Assam?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : That is imposed by the Government of India.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Should we take all our gifts with a kick, Sir ?

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* Appendix A.

Introduction of anti-Rinderpest Serum

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

*312. (*a*) Is it a fact that Goat Virus sufficient to inoculate 15 to 20 thesand cattle can be prepared locally from a single goat worth Rs.3 or Rs.4 ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much money was saved during 1935-36 and 1936-37 for non-purchase of anti-Rinderpest Serum by introducing the Goat Virus method of inoculation ?

(*ii*) How this amount was utilised ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to take immediate steps for the preparation of the Goat Virus locally at Gauhati and vaccinate all the cattle of Assam in order to protect them against Rinderpest which carries away thousands of cattle every year ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:-

312. (*a*)—The only information Government have on the matter is that Re.1-2-0 worth of vaccine suffices to inoculate 200 cattle.

(*b*) (*i*)—The actual savings were Rs.2,800 in 1935-36 and Rs.11,000 in 1936-37 but the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, has reported that the real saving is much more as if the goat tissue vaccine had not been used the budget provision for the purchase of serum would have been far exceeded.

(*ii*)—The savings in 1935-36 were reappropriated to the Agricultural budget: the savings in 1936-37 were not utilized.

(*c*)—The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative as it is much cheaper to buy the vaccine from Bengal. As regards the second part of the question 1,11,859 animals were actually inoculated with this vaccine in 1936-37 and the Department will continue to do its best to inoculate as many animals as possible.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA :Why was this saving reappropriated to the Agricultural budget and not to the Veterinary budget ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN: This was done by the previous Government, Sir.

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI: May I draw your attention to one point, Sir ? There are a huge number of questions remaining unanswered. May I suggest, Sir, that the questions might be put so that they may find place in the proceedings ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: In regard to this I have to make a statement and will do so a little later.

Proceedings of the Municipal Boards.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

*313. (*a*) Will Government please state whether the proceedings of the Municipal Boards in this province are confidential ?

(*b*) (*i*) Will Government please state whether the representatives of the Press are invited to attend the meetings of the Local or Municipal Boards and (*ii*) if not, why not ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Shillong representative of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" was refused permission by the Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board on the 29th April 1937 to enable him to report the proceedings of the said Board ?

(*d*) Will Government please state the contents of the letter of the representative of the Patrika and the reply of the Vice-Chairman of the Shillong Municipal Board on the subject ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

313. (*a*)—The minutes of the proceedings are not confidential but the President of a meeting has power to exclude members of the public under section 34 of the Municipal Act.

(*b*)—Government have no information as to whether Press representatives are invited to attend. Press representatives have the some rights as other members of the public.

(*c*)&(*d*)—The hon. member is referred to the replies I have given to these questions in reply to similar questions asked by Srijut Debeswar Sarmah at this Session.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Should a representative who has been photographed with the Chief Minister, stationed together, be excluded from a municipal meeting ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The hon. member is presuming that the Hon'ble Minister knows who was photographed.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA : Yes, Sir, it was published in the papers.

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA : It was a very interesting picture.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : That might be interesting to the hon. member.

Newspaper article *re* "Is Assam doomed"

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

*314. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles—

(*a*) 'Is Assam doomed' published in the "Prativa" dated the 10th June 1936 ?

(*b*) "ষাঠ নে মহামার" published in editorial column of the "Dainik Batori" dated 16th June 1936, and

(*c*) "গোজাতির উন্নতি" published in the "Dainik Batori" dated 23rd July 1937 regarding the Johne's disease in Assam ?

(*d* If so, do Government propose to make a statement (*i*) on the queries made in the above articles and (*ii*) on the action, if any taken on the subject by Government ?

(*e*) If not, do Government propose to contradict these articles and issue a statement on the real facts ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the Johne's disease referred to in the articles was newly imported through the stock of the Government cattle farms at Khanapara and Sylhet ?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the disease was confined to the stock of the Government farms and Jail Dairies and amongst those issued or sold from the Farms as referred to in the annual reports of the Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, for 1934-35 and 1935-36 ?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether these farm cattle were examined by any competent Veterinary experts before they were purchased ?

(*ii*) If so, who examined them and when and where ?

(*iii*) If they were examined do Government propose to lay before the House the certificates of fitness granted in respect of those cattle ?

*315. (*a*) Is it a fact that the local cattle were examined in places where the farm cattle were not issued, for the Johne's disease ?

(*b*) If so, with what result ?

(*c*) What is the total number of cattle destroyed at Khanapara and Sylhet farms on account of this disease ?

(*d*) What is the total value of these destroyed animals ?

(*e*) What is the total number of stud bulls, cows and other animals issued or sold from these farms to the towns and villages separately ?

(*f*) What is the total number of cattle purchased back owing to this disease ?

*316. (*a*) Do Government propose to lay before this House a copy of the Ware Committee Report relating to this subject ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of money spent over (*i*) buildings, (*ii*) lands, and (*iii*) establishment including menials, (*iv*) stock of cattle and other items of expenditure over the Khanapara and Sylhet Farms ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

314. (*a*) (*b*) & (*c*)—Government have seen the articles.

(*d*) & (*e*)—A brief statement of the whole position of Johne's disease has been prepared in connection with the numerous questions on the matter which have been asked in this Session and has been laid on the Library table.

314. (*f*) to 315 (*f*)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury, Srijut Siddhinath Sarma and others at this Session of the Assembly.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : With regard to (*f*) when was this Jone's disease imported ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN : I think it was about the year 1928.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : Can the Hon'ble Minister contradict me if I state that it was not imported into this province in the year 1932 ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I can answer that question, Sir. It was detected in 1933. It was later found that the disease was imported earlier along with a herd of cattle brought from Karnal and Sindh.

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN : Is there any treatment for this disease, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : No actual treatment has been found till now.

THE HON'BLE ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

316. (*a*)—A copy of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Committee is laid on the library table.

(*b*)—The cattle farm at Khanapara was sanctioned in 1926 and the farm at Sylhet in 1930 and it has not been found possible to compile the figures for this long period within time to allow an answer being given.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: On a point of information, Sir. One question from this set has been omitted. I think, Sir, the information required by that question is easily available. I want to know why that question was omitted.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Was it admitted ?

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Yes, Sir. The question was what are the qualifications of Mr. Woodford, Deputy Director of Live-stock ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member may put a supplementary question.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: What is the question, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What are the qualifications of Mr. Woodford ? That is the question which was been admitted but not answered.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: That question should have come just after 316.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That might be due to a mistake.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I will make a note of that. If that question was admitted, I will supply the reply next session. Will that do ?

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: All right, Sir.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Or I can inform the hon. member.

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA: Does the advent of this disease synchronise with the advent of the Deputy Director of this department ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No.

Realisation of absence fines from students of Government Colleges

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED asked:

* 317. (*i*) Is it a fact that absence fines are realised from the students of Government Colleges in Assam ?

(*ii*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the circumstances under which the absence fines are realised ?

(*b*) the rate at which the absence fines are realised ?

(*c*) the total amount of absence fines which has been realised in (*i*) Cotton College, Gauhati, and (*ii*) Murarichand College, Sylhet, in the years 1936, 1935 and 1934 ?

(*d*) whether the students have to keep a certain percentage of presence to entitle them to appear at the University examinations ?

(*e*) whether the restriction mentioned in (*d*) is intended to be a sufficient check to prevent the students from absenting themselves from a class or college without a reasonable cause and if so, whether it has been found to be so in its operation ?

(*f*) whether the Hon'ble Minister considers these absence fines as unjust or excessive ? if so, what steps does he propose to take to remove this grievance of the students ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

317. (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*) (*a*)—When the students remain absent without leave.

(*b*)—The rate of fines is 4 annas in the Cotton College and 1 anna in the Murarichand College for ordinary students and for scholars, absence without leave upto 30 days in the year entails loss of scholarship for twice the period of absence.

(*c*)—Fines realised in—

	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
1. Murarichand College, Sylhet ...	716	287	301
2. Cotton College, Gauhati	746	695	274

(*d*)—The students have to attend 75 per cent. of the lectures delivered in a subject in one or more affiliated Colleges.

(*e*)—It is intended to be a check but has not been found to be a sufficient check.

(*f*)—Government do not consider these fines excessive as students who have reasonable grounds for requiring leave can obtain leave from the Principal.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: What is the reason for the rate of fines being different in the two colleges?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: The rate is fixed by the Principal in consultation with the Governing Body.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that in the case of the many universities this system of fine does not exist?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have no knowledge of that, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: May I tell him that in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge the system of fines does not exist?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I will take the hon. member's statement as correct, Sir. But what as regards India?

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Is the fine to be utilised as a source of revenue, Sir?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Has not the Hon'ble Minister admitted that this fine does not act as a sufficient check?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: I have answered that question, Sir.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I want to put a supplementary question in order to know definitely whether this is the case or not.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: It has not proved a sufficient check, Sir, but a check all the same as the gradual reduction in the amount of the fines realised in the Cotton College shows.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I want to know definitely whether it is a check or not?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED: It has not provided sufficient check.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Then what is the justification or imposing this fine if it does not act as sufficient check?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : I have already said that it is intended to exercise a check.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : College students are not like school students and they realise and are alive to their responsibility. Why fines should be imposed on them ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED : From the absence of the students it appears that there is some slackness on the part of the college students.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

The following questions were placed on member's tables, but were not called.

(Laid on members' table on the 14th August 1937)

[Posts held by each community in District Offices in Shillong

REV. L. GATPHOH asked :

609. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) Whether the appointments in the district offices in Assam, *e.g.*, Deputy Commissioner's office, Executive Engineer's office, and Civil Surgeon's office are made on communal basis according to communities recognised by Government ?

(*ii*) Whether they are made on the basis of the population of the district ?

610. If the reply to question (*i*) be in the negative will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether he proposes to issue orders to the heads of the district offices that vacancies should be filled on communal basis giving preference to under-represented communities ?

611. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (*i*) the total number of posts, (*ii*) the posts which each community may hold on the basis of population, (*iii*) the posts actually held now—in the following offices :—

(*i*) The office of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, in—

(*a*) Police Department.

(*b*) Forest Department.

(*ii*) The office of the Executive Engineer, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

(*iii*) The office of the Civil Surgeon, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

609 (*i*) and 610.—The orders of Government are that when vacancies occur heads of offices should consider which of the communities have less representation than that to which their numbers in the particular district would entitle them and should, if qualified candidates are available, endeavour to give appointments to members of those communities. These orders are of course borne in mind when any new appointments are made.

(*ii*)—Yes. If qualified local candidates are available, appointments to service on the staff of a district or a division are limited to residents of such district or division.

611.—A statement is given below:—

Communities	Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Police)			Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Forests)			Office of the Civil Surgeon, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.			Office of the Executive Engineer, Khasi and Jaintia Hills			Remarks
	Total number of sanctioned posts	Posts which each community may hold on the basis of population	Posts actually held now by each community	Total number of sanctioned posts	Posts which each community may hold on the basis of population	Posts actually held now by each community	Total number of sanctioned posts	Posts which each community may hold on the basis of population	Posts actually held now by each community	Total number of sanctioned posts	Posts which each community may hold on the basis of population	Posts actually held now by each community	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	4			2			2			*19 †3			* Permanent. † Temporary. ‡ Recruited in the clerical establishments of the Civil Surgeons is made on provincial basis taking into consideration the total number of clerks in the Medical Department as a whole.
1. European and Anglo-Indians	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
2. Muslims	..	·04	..	..	·02	..	..	..	..	..	·22	..	
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	..	·36	..	..	·18	1	..	‡	2 (Surma Valley Hindus)	..	1·98	13	
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).													
5. Scheduled castes	..	..	1 (Assam Valley)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
6. Domiciled Hindus (other than *ex*-coolies).	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
7. Tribal people (Hills and plains).	..	3·56	2 (Khasis)	..	1·78	1	..	..	..	..	19·58	2	(Two Bengalees of Bengal and 1 Assamese Christian.)
8. Others	..	·04	..	..	·02	..	..	..	..	..	·22	3	

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on the 16th August 1937)

Number of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Medical and Public Health Departments

MAULAVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked:

612. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Department under the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and the Director of Public Health are two separate Departments with separate establishments ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of posts in the cadres of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the two departments separately ?

(*c*) The number of appointments to which the Muhammedans are entitled on the basis of communal representation in both the Departments separately ?

(*d*) The number of appointments actually held by the Muhammedans in both the Departments separately ?

(*e*) The circumstances under which the vacancies in the Medical Department are filled up by doctors from the Public Health Department ?

613. Is it a fact (*a*) that this sort of recruitment will debar the Muhammedans for long from getting any appointment in the Medical Department where they are under-represented ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to do away with this policy and recruit candidates direct in the Department where the vacancy occurs ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

612. (*a*)—Yes.

	Assistant Surgeons	Sub-Assistant Surgeons
(*b*)—Medical	36	195
Public Health	7	103
(*c*)—Medical	11·16	60·45
Public Health	2·17	31·93
(*d*)—Medical	4	17
Public Health	1	35

(*e*)—Before 1936 the staff of doctors in the Public Health Department was on a temporary basis and officers required for the Medical Department were recruited from among the experienced temporary doctors of the Public Health Department. In fact temporary service in the Public Health Department was a stepping stone to a permanent post in the Medical Department. When the Public Health Department was made permanent the staff was given the option of being confirmed in that Department or waiting for absorption in the Medical Department. All except four Assistant Surgeons and fifteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons elected to be confirmed in the Public Health Department. The position at present is that there are still four Assistant Surgeons and eleven Sub-Assistant Surgeons to be absorbed in the Medical Department and until they are absorbed no direct recruitment to the Department can be made.

613. (*a*)—It will undoubtedly tend to do so.

(*b*)—Government is considering the best way of meeting the case.

Number of appointments held by Scheduled Castes in Government Departments

Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS asked :

614.—Will Government be pleased to state the number of appointments held by the members of Scheduled Castes people respectively in the Departments mentioned below ?

(*a*) Education, (*b*) Medical, (*c*) Public Works Department, (*d*) Police, (*e*) Excise ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

614.—A statement giving the information required by the hon. member is laid on the table. For Gazetted services the hon. member may refer to the Civil List.

Statement showing the number of non-Gazetted non-ministerial posts held by members of the Scheduled Castes in certain Departments.

Department	Number of posts actually held on 31st March 1937
(*a*) Education	14
(*b*) Medical—	
(1) Assam Medical Service (Junior)	2
(2) „ „ „ (Public Health Department)	3
(3) Compounders	2
(4) Disinfectant Carriers	2
(*c*) Public Works Department	X
(*d*) Police	9
(*e*) Excise	2

Statement showing the number of ministerial posts held by members of the Scheduled Castes in certain Departments

Department	Number of posts actually held on 31st December 1936
(a) Education—	
(1) Office of the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Districts.	2
(2) ,, ,, ,, ,, Surma Valley and Hill Districts.	1
(3) Office of the Director of Public Instruction ...	1
(4) ,, ,, Principal, Cotton College ...	2
(5) ,, ,, Principal, Murarichand College ...	1
(b) Medical—	
(1) Office of the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, etc.	1
(2) ,, ,, Director of Public Health ...	3
(c) Public Works Department—	
(1) Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakhimpur ...	1
(2) ,, ,, ,, ,, Sibsagar ...	2
(3) ,, ,, ,, ,, Darrang ...	1
(4) ,, ,, Deputy Commissioner in charge, Public Works Department, Garo Hills.	2
(5) Drawing Branch Establishment	1
(d) Police—	
(1) Office of the Superintendents of Police ...	7
(2) ,, ,, Commandants of Assam Rifles ...	1
(e) Excise—	
Office of the Excise Commissioner	1

Grievances of the Gaonburas in Assam

SRIJUT MOHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

615. Will Government be pleased to state :—

Whether it has received a representation from Srijut Kamal Chandra Hazarika—President of the Gaonburas' Association of the Province of Assam, together with copies of resolutions passed in a meeting held at Nowgong on 13th June 1937 ?

616. If so, will Government be pleased to give the matter a due consideration and remove the just and legitimate grievances of the Gaonburas enumerated in the representation and resolutions ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

615 and 616.—The hon. member is referred to the replies to question Nos.55 and 56 (starred) asked by Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua at the curren session of the Assembly.

Grievances of Gaonburas in Assam

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

617. Has the notice of the Government of Assam, been drawn to the resolution No.3 passed in the All-Assam Gaonbura Association at its Nowgong session, held on 13th June last ?

618. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Gaonburas are treated as menials by the Government Officers ?

619. Do Government propose to take immediate steps to put a stop to it ?

620. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If it is a fact that the Gaonburas have to help every Government Officers in performing the duties in villages ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that the Gaonburas get remission of land revenue of twelve bighas of land only ?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that the Gaonburas complain that the aforesaid remuneration is not commensurate with the amount of works done by them ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of fixing their remuneration at Rs.100 to Rs.150 per annum and paying them in cash as demanded by the said Gaonbura Association ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

617.—Yes.

618 and 619.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No.56 (starred) asked by Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua at this session of the Assembly.

620(*a*).—The duties of Gaonburas are laid down in rule 164 at page 196 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual.

(*b*).—Yes.

(*c*).—Yes.

(*d*).—No.

Change in the course of Kulsi river and its effect on revenue, etc.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BORDOLOI asked :

621. Is it a fact that the change in the course of the Kulsi river has been responsible for making an area of about 57,500 bighas of land absolutely uncultivable, and also for depriving about 8,000 souls in at least 30 villages from any source of drinking water ?

622. Is it a fact that the river flowing by the new channel is also flooding other areas of the same Mauza and causing great damage to the crops of a large number of the villagers ?

623. Is it a fact that considerable amount of revenue is being remitted every year on account of flood in some villages and want of water in other villages within a radius of 6 to 10 miles from Chaygaon ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

621 and 622.—The change in the course of the Kulsi river has affected two sets of villages differently. One set (*viz.*, 4 villages in Barduar and 2 in Chaygaonpantan) is flooded—there being some damage to crops in consequence. The other set (18 villages in Chaygaonpantan) suffer for want of water at the time of *sali* cultivation.

But the waste area in these villages is not abormally large in proportion to cultivated lands. The outturn might be somewhat lower than before. It is reported by the Sub-Deputy Collector, that no land has been made uncultivable.

There is want of pure drinking water in this locality.

623.—No. Some remissions have been given, but not large ones, in recent years, as has also been done in other localities, but it is not possible to state that the changes in the Kulsi river alone have rendered them necessary.

Consumption of electric lights by the office of the Assam Legislative Council

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

624. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the average amount paid monthly for current consumed on electric lights in the office of the Legislative Council for the last four months ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

624.—The Council office was located in the Assembly building up till the 14th July 1937. As the current for electric lights was consumed by both the Council and the Assembly offices when the former office was located in the Assembly building, it was arranged that the electric light charges would be borne by both the offices in equal share. A sum of Rs.58-14 (*i. e.*, half the share) was paid in May for the current consumed in April 1937. The subsequent bills have not yet been received from the Hydro-Electric Company.

Damage to crops by Muri and Lasaitala Haors

MAULAVI MOBARAK ALI asked :

625. Is it a fact that Parganas Panchakhanda, Kala, Bahadurpur and some portion of Khurd Panchakhanda under the jurisdiction of Jaldhup Police Station in the subdivision of Karimganj have been seriously suffering for eight years for damage to crops at the beginning of the rainy season due to an abnormal deposit of water in Muri Haor and Lasaitala Haor, the only two fields of cultivation of the people of those parganas ?

626. Is it a fact that many people of these areas are leaving the place for Nowgong and Tipperah for continuous failure of crops in these two Haors ?

627. Is it a fact that this is due to silting up of three Khals, *e.g.*, Moragong, Tekoikona and Hauder Khal the three outlets for bringing in and out the waters of Muri Haor ?

628. Did Government render any help to remove this grievance last year ?

629. What measure of redress either by Government or by the public was taken recourse to last year in this direction in the cold weather ?

630. What has been the result of last year's operation in this direction ?

631. Do Government propose to take steps to bring the cultivation of these Parganas to its former stage ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

625.—Yes.

626.—There may be instances of this, but Government are not aware of any considerable emigration.

627.—The failure of crops is due to the silting-up of these Khals.

628.—The Subdivisional Officer made an extensive tour of these areas and made a scheme for their improvement which consisted in the re-excavation of some of the outlet and which was to be financed from the Rural Uplift Fund.

629.—The re-excavation of the biggest of the outlets, namely Moragong, was taken up and part of the work was done before the advent of the rainy season. Some smaller Khals were also re-excavated.

630.—Differences of opinion among rival factions in the villages concerned delayed the execution of the work so that it was not completed before the rainy season and the anticipated benefits did not materialise : there will however, naturally be less remaining to be done next cold weather.

631.—Government consider that this is primarily a matter for the Zemindars and their tenants who own the land as well as the mahals in question. Government cannot undertake to drain off flood water any more than they can guarantee to irrigate lands which are short of water.

Number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Medical Department

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

632. Will the Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Medical Department ?

(*b*) The total number of Muslem Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the said Department ?

(*c*) The present Muslem representation in that service on population basis in terms of percentage ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

632.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given in reply to a question on the same subject by Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.

Anomalies in the assessment of local rates in Sylhet

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

633. Is it a fact that there are complaints of serious anomalies having come into existence since the operation of Local Rate Act of 1879 and of irregularities and errors having been created by the Local Rate Amendment Act of 1932 and of the consequent injustice and hardship on the people ?

634. Are Government aware that the majority of the large estates which either exceeded 400 acres in area or which were assessed to a revenue of not less than Rs. 100 were partially assessed to local rate in the year 1880 and the small estates were assessed on the whole area ?

635. Are Government aware that most of the large estates with extensive area of waste lands have at present been brought under cultivation and fishery ?

636. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state the number of small estates that have increased in area and have come into the category of large estates, by reason of large areas of lands having been assigned to owners of these small estatets by the owners of the neighbouring large or small estates from time to time as a result of civil suit or otherwise by way of adverse possession and compromise ?

637. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether in the district of Sylhet a large number of estates have got lands in *Ejmali* or joint lands with other *Taluks* and each *Taluk* has been made to pay the local rate for the whole area of such *Ejmali* land irrespective of the portion or share assigned to each ?

638. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether many of the *Taluks* in the district of Sylhet overlap each other in area and each of them has been assessed to local rate and the annual value of each such estate was ascertained by multiplying their area in acres by 2 and ordinarily assessed to local rate at one anna per rupee of the annual value ?

639. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether in certain localities having similar class of land some large estates are fully assessed and some are partially assessed to local rate ?

640. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether a large number of separate accounts were opened from the estates with area and boundaries given by the persons opening it and in many of these cases the actual area far exceeds the area so given and local rates were assessed only on the area so given ?

641. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether many of the estates have disappeared due to the opening of bogus separate accounts and those Taluks are put to auction every year for revenue and local rate and none bids for them ?

642. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether the areas of many estates have changed and in some case the estate as a whole has disappeared due to acquisition and diluvian and in the later case the lands have been included in the periodic Illam Pattas for which separate revenue and local rate have been assessed in addition to that which the Taluk has been assessed to ?

643. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister please state whether in the Local Rate Register, 1880, errors of omission and commission are found to have existed in the statement of area of many of the Taluks ?

644. Is it a fact (*a*) that the *Kasbha* lands of Sylhet, *i.e.*, the Sylhet Town and its suburb measuring about 3,000 acres of land have not been assessed to local rate ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state under whose direction it has not been assessed ?

645. Is it a fact (*a*) that all lands in a Pargana in the district of Sylhet has been classed into one class irrespective of the different class of land and divergent rates of rent prevailing there?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether it is not against the provision of the Assam Local Rates Amendment Act, 1932 ?

646. If the answers to 1 to 13 are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the steps, if any, they have taken for rectifying anomalies and errors involved in bringing the Assam Local Rate Amendment Act of 1932 into operation ?

647. If the replies are in the negative, do Government propose to make enquiries into the anomalies and errors involved and find out ways and means of rectifying them before bringing the Assam Local Rate Amendment Act, 1932, into operation ?

648. Is it a fact that all the *Taluks* or estates in the district of Sylhet are in the course of assessment to local rate under the Assam Local Rates Amendment Act of 1932 ?

649. Will Government be pleased to state how many petitions were received by the Special Officer in charge of Local Rate assessment from the proprietors of the fully assesse d large estates in the district of Sylhet under section 10 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation of 1879 and how many of them were rejec ed as time barred ?

650. Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry or survey has been made by the Special Officer in charge of Local Rate assessment when petitioned under section 10 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation, 1879?

651. (*a*) Is it a fact that when an owner of a large estate in the district of Sylhet approached the Special Officer with a petition under section 10 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation 1879, he was asked to make a deposit in advance of the whole cost of such enquiry and survey against the provision of section 10 of the Assam Local Rate Regulation, 1879 ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state how many of such petitions were rejected for non-payment of cost in advance ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

633.—Government are aware that there were certain anomalies in the assessment of local rates in Sylhet under the Act of 1879 but are not aware of either irregularities or errors having been created by the amending Act of 1932. No re-assessment of the annual value of small estates was prescribed after the Act of 1932 was passed. The only re-assessment which was undertaken was that of the local rates demanded on those estates and the recalculation of annual values as well as of re-assessment of local rates on the 381 partly assessed large estates in the district.

634.—Yes.

635.—The annual values of large estates were recalculated after the Act of 1932 in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1879.

636.—The number of such estates is not known but it is understood to be small.

637.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, Government have no information as there was no re-survey of such estates.

638.—As already stated in the reply to question 633 the areas of small estates and their annual values were not recalculated at the present assessment.

639.—Before the recent re-assessment large estates were divided into two classes—(*a*) fully assessed and (*b*) partly assessed. The re-assessment of the latter in accordance with the terms of the parent Act has been undertaken at the present revision.

640.—Yes. In this connection the hon. member's attention is invited to the last paragraph of rule 3 at page 143 of the Assam Land Revenue Manual.

641, 642 and 643.—This may be so, but the Special Officer was not concerned, as noted in reply to question 633 with the re-calculation of the annual values of small estates.

644.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—These lands have been exempted from assessment by orders of Government ever since 1841. It was considered that the cost of assessment and legal difficulties involved therein would not be commensurate with the amount of local rates which would be received as a result.

645.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—No. The second proviso to Section 2 of the Assam Local Rate Amendment Act, 1932, provides that different rates may be fixed for lands in different localities in the present re-assessment. The pargana has been taken as a unit for determining the rates.

646 and 647.—As already stated the anomalies mentioned have not arisen as a result of the Local Rates Amendment Act, 1932 but were mostly in existence from the date of the parent Act. The best remedy would be the preparation of a record-of-rights and re-survey of all lands in the district of Sylhet. Government have considered such possibility but in view of the expense involved do not see their way to take any action at present.

648.—Yes.

649.—It appears from the record that up to September 1936, 50 such applications were received. The number rejected is not available but several were struck off for failure to pay survey deposit fees.

650.—The Special Officer reported last September that the enquiry and survey would be taken up during the cold weather of 1936-37 and it is presumed that the work has been begun.

651. (*a*)—Yes. But Government do not admit that this is contrary to the provision of section 10 of the Assam Local Rate Regulation of 1879 which merely prescribes that the cost *may* be realised as an arrear of land revenue.

(*b*)—Fourteen applications were struck off for non-payment of cost.

Sale system of pounds in Cachar

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked:

652. Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to writings in the press directed against the sale system of pounds current in Cachar ?

653. Do Government realize that this system of sale has proved injurious to the best interests of the people ?

654. Do Government propose to abandon the system in response to the public demand ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

652.—The reply is in the negative.

653.—It is possible that the system of sale may be abused in certain places but the Silchar and Hailakandi Local Boards have reported that the sale system is quite suitable.

654.—Government are not aware of any public demand for the abandonment of this system and do not propose to abandon it.

Rental value of land in different parganas in Sylhet

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

655. Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the enquiry held by the Special Local Rate Officer in arriving at the average rental per acre in every perganah as stated in the *Assam Gazette* notification, dated the 28th January 1935 ?

656. Will Government be pleased to state if the said Special Officer ascertained the total area comprised by the permanently settled estates in each perganah lying waste and unproductive in calculating the average rental and in making the classification of perganahs as published in the notification aforesaid ? If so, how ?

657. Will Government be pleased to state the total area comprised by the permanently settled estates lying waste and unproductive in the vast area known as Hail Haor in the South Sylhet subdivision ?

658. Will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry, wh tsoever was made by the said Special Officer as to the extent of the area lying waste and unproductive in small estates as indicated by the rules under the Assam Local Rates Regulations, 1879 (paying revenue of less than one hundred rupees or comprising area of less than four hundred acres) ?

659. Will Government be pleased to state what proportion of the permanently settled areas in the district of Sylhet is comprised of the small estates and what proportion of the large estates as indicated by the said rules ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

655.—The Special Officer was directed to ascertain the rental value of land in different parganas by local enquiry, by reference to Registration offices and by calling for information from proprietors under three separate categories—

(1) where the rents are below Rs. 2 per acre,
(2) where the rents vary from Rs. 2 to Rs 4 per acre, and
(3) where the rents are above Rs. 4 per acre.

The Special Officer complied with these directions.

656 and 657.—No. It was not possible to undertake a survey either of cultivated or uncultivated lands. The Special Officer reported that the proprietors were very unwilling to furnish information.

658.—The Special Officer was not concerned with questions of area in the case of small estates. He made enquiries however in respect of all classes of land in each pargana.

659.—The total number of large estates is 954 and of small estates 49, 014.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(*Laid on members' table on 17th August 1937*)

Free supply of *Assam Gazette* and other publications to the Congress Office at Shillong

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

660. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state if the Leader of the Congress Party in this Assembly made a request for the free supply of the *Assam Gazette* and other publications to its office at Shillong ?

661. Is it also a fact that the request was not complied with ?

662. Is it a fact that such publications are given free to the offices of all moderate newspapers, some clubs and other institutions ?

663. Will Government be pleased to state for the information of the House the number of free copies of the Gazette given by Government to such newspapers, clubs and other institutions, besides those given to the members of the Legislature and Government offices ?

664. Is it a fact that the cost of such free supply to the Congress Party Office will be negligible ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

660.—Yes.

661.—It has been complied with as regards the "*Assam Gazette*", which is now supplied to the Secretaries of the Congress and other parties. The question of supplying other publications is under consideration.

662.—Yes, to some newspapers, clubs and other institutions.

663.—Thirteen to Newspapers.

Thirteen to Clubs and Libraries
and
Fifteen to other Institutions.

664.—Does not arise.

Re **Condition of a labourer in a tea garden**

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

665. Is it a fact that a labourer in a tea garden does not enjoy the liberty of a free man ?

666. Is it a fact that he is to live in complete isolation where the public have no right of access ?

667. Is it a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour reported that "On principle it is objectionable that considerable areas included within the garden grant in which large number of workers are settled can be entirely closed to any one who may be interested in their welfare " ?

668. Is it a fact that (*a*) The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that "It is in the Assam Valley that the right of access is most needed and we recommend that steps should be taken to secure public contact with workers dwelling on all plantations" ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state—

What steps they have taken to bring into effect this recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Labour ?

669. Is it a fact that (*a*) the Royal Commission on Labour recommended that the Government should take steps to acquaint the workers with their rights under the law ? (*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to bring into effect this recommendation ?

670. Is it a fact that (*a*) the Royal Commissioner on Labour recommended the employment of women doctors by each medical group organisation for confinements in hospitals, for the training and supervision of midwives and *dais* and for child welfare works ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to bring into effect this recommendation ?

671. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps for the establishment of a statutory wage-fixing machinery in the Assam Plantations as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour ?

672. Will Government be pleased to state whether there are adequate latrine arrangements for male and female labourers working within the factories, on all the tea plantations of Assam ?

673. If not, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take immediate steps in the matter ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

665.—No.

666.—Not now-a-days as explained in the reply to question No. 668(*b*).

667.—Yes.

668.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—No steps have been taken except in the way of ensuring that roads in tea gardens over which the public have a right of way should be recognised as such. The recommendation of the Royal Commission was based on an incorrect appreciation of present day conditions. In the old days, when penal legislation was in vogue, there was no doubt a tendency to keep indentured labourers within the ring-fence of their plantation, but those days have gone, never to return. Penal legislation has since been done away with and labourers are allowed not only to leave the garden without let or hindrance to attend public hats, the courts, etc., but also to leave the garden altogether, if they so choose.

669.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The recommendation was brought to thenotice of the Tea Industry and the Factory Inspector, Assam. The labourer in tea gardens now-a-days knows well that he is under no system of contract. In the case of new recruits, the conditions of service are fully explained to them in the recruiting districts prior to recruitment, as required by the rules made by the various Provincial Governments of the recruiting districts under section 21(1)(*f*) of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act.

670.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The recommendation was brought to the notice of the Tea industry which pointed out that one great difficulty was the scarcity of fully qualified women doctors for appointments in the mofussil. Much, however, is done to assist pregnant women by liberal maternity leave with allowances.

671.—Government have made certain preliminary enquiries and are satisfied that owing to the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act and the Payment of Wages Act, both of which have been put in force after the Whitley Commission Report, it is not necessary to set up statutory wage-fixing machinery. Conditions differ so much in gardens even in the same area that it is doubtful if the fixing of a minimum wage is a practicable proposition. Attention is invited to the notes (*a*) of Sir Alexander Murray at pages 402-404 of the report who, while he supports the setting up of wage-fixing machinery, recognises difficulties and (*b*) of Sir Victor Sassoon at pages 476-485 who has given reasons for not supporting the establishment of Minimum Wage Boards for tea gardens in Assam.

672 & 673.—The great majority of tea factories have been provided with latrine arrangements according to the scale prescribed in rule 32 of the Assam Factories Rules, 1935. The question of taking immediate steps therefore, does not arise. Government will continue to effect improvement by means of inspections and otherwise.

Appointments made by Government on the advice of Public Service Commission

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

674. Will Government be pleased to state how many appointments have been made in April, May and June last—figures being shown separately—on the advice of the Public Service Commission ?

675. Will Government state the salary of each appointment so made on the advice of the Public Service Commission ?

676. Will Government state how many times the members of the Public Service Commission met to give advice in connection with the appointments during the last three months ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

674, 675&676.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to the questions asked by Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas in this session of the Assembly.

Ministers' travelling allowance

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

677. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* (Dak edition), dated 1st July 1937, that the Hon'ble Sir Md. Saadulla and Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri drew travelling allowance to the extent of Rs.740-6-0 and Rs.162-6-0 respectively, in the month of March 1937 ?

(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to state why these amounts were drawn by these Ministers before they were appointed as such ?

678. Will Government be pleased to state from which place to which place they drew this amount ?

679. Will Government be pleased to state if this travelling has got anything to do with their prospective Ministership ?

680. Will Government please state if these amounts include halting charges as well ?

681. Will Government quote the sanctioning authority ?

682. Did they come to Shillong ? If so, under whose invitation ? Were they told before they actually performed the travelling that they would be given travelling allowance ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

677-682.—The hon. member is referred to the answer given to unstarred question No.248 at the present session.

Principles observed by Government in appointing Mauzadars

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

683.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if it is the considered policy of the Government to give Mauzas to retired Government servants ?

(*b*) If so, will Government consider the desirability of discontinuing it and giving Mauzas to educated young men in view of acute unemployment amongst them ?

684. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) whether the people of Myang Mauza were made to build Camp-houses for Government Officials ?

(*b*) If so, who were the Government Officials concerned, in what places such Camp-houses were built and on what occasions ?

(*c*) Were the people paid for their services ? If so, how much for each place and who paid them ?

685. Are the Government aware that the majority of the rayots in Assam is heavily indebted, and that in many cases their debts surpass their assets in value ?

686. What steps the Government propose to take in order to save this class of rayots from the impending ruin ?

687. Do the Government propose to consider the desirability of setting up Debt Conciliation Boards as in some other provinces ?

688. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of Government revenue, local rate, grazing tax, and incomes from fisheries, pounds, ferry ghats, elephants tax, *hats* (bazars), and forest products, realised in the following Mauzas:—Gobha, Mayang, Ghagua, Silpukhuri and Mikirbheta, item by item and Mauza by Mauza, and the number of Schools, wells, and mileage of roads and dispensaries that exist in those mauzas and the annual expenditure thereon, mauza by mauza, and item by item.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

683.(*a*)—No. The principles observed in appointing Mauzadars are laid down in rule 116 at page 186 of the Land Revenue Manual.

(*b*)—Does not arise. Besides, academic distinction is one of the least important qualifications for Mauzadarship.

684.(*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—Government have no specific information and the question does not mention in what year the people of Mayang mauza were made to build camp houses. Government have however received a report from the Deputy Commissioner in another connection that it is customary in several mauzas of Nowgong district for raiyats to build camp houses for the Mauzadars to facilitate their touring for the collection of land revenue, which saves the raiyats the trouble of going to the Mauzadar's house. This custom has been prevalent for many years and may be in vogue in Mayang mauza.

685.—Yes.

686.—The Assam Money Lenders Act and the Assam Debt Conciliation Act have been passed and it is hoped that these two Acts will improve the situation of the raiyat in regard to indebtedness.

687.—Two experimental Debt Conciliation Boards—one in North Sylhet and the other in South Kamrup—are about to be set up and if they prove successful, other Boards will be set up in other parts of the province. Government are deputing two officers on special duty as Chairmen of these Boards.

688.—It is not possible to collect the information asked for without an amount of labour altogether disproportionate to the result.

Settlement of Fishery Beels

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

689. Is it a fact that all the fishery *beels* are settled without reserving any for two or three years for the young fish to grow and thrive ?

690. Is it a fact that for this reason, among others, the out-put and quality of fishes are going down every year ?

691. Is it a fact that there are some *beels* in which there is scarcity of even young fish ?

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making some concessions to the lessees of these *beels* to import young fish and rear them in these *beels* ?

692. Will Government be pleased to take steps to remedy this ?

693. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of money received from fishery *mahals* in the district of Nowgong during the last 3 years, year by year ?

694. Is it a fact that many of the fishery *beels* have deteriorated for want of care and attention on them ?

(*a*) Are Government aware that one of the many causes that has brought about the deterioration of *beels* is the cultivation on the banks of *beels* which results in the trapping of soil into the *beels* from such banks during the rains.

695. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the amount of money spent in improving or reclaiming the *beels* in Nowgong ? (*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of enquiring into the causes of deterioration and spending a portion of income for the improvement of the fishery *mahals* ?

696. Is it a fact (*a*) that Government formerly, at the time of settlement of fisheries to the *mahaldars*, reserved the natural rights and privileges of the people living in villages for fishing in all fisheries for their personal consumption ?

(*b*) that adequate number of fisheries were reserved absolutely for the use of people ?

697. Will Government be pleased to state separately the number of fisheries that were settled during the years 1920, 1930 and 1937 ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

689.—The hon. member is referred to rules 181 and 189 of the fishery rules at pages 201 and 203 of the Land Revenue Manual. Fisheries are settled ordinarily for a period of 3 years with the express intention of discouraging the complete extermination of brood fish and fry which is likely to occur if they are only settled annually. In addition, the Deputy Commissioners frequently ask for fisheries to be reserved for the purpose of breeding and Government usually accede to their requests.

690 and 691.—Government have no information.

(*a*)—Does not arise.

692.—Does not arise.

					Rs.
693.—1933-34	...	...	...	...	21,792
1934-35	...	...	...	...	24,500
1935-36	...	...	...	...	25,845

694. (*a*)—Government have no definite information, but admit that some *beels* are liable to deterioration while others certainly appreciate in value in the course of years. The figures given above do not seem to bear out any suggestion of depreciation in Nowgong.

695. (*a*)—Government have no information.

(*b*)—Government see no need for an enquiry, nor have they any fishery expert who could make one.

696. (*a*)—The concession of people living in villages adjacent to fisheries catching fish for their own consumption has always been given and is the first condition in fishing leases issued by this Government. Fishery *mahaldars* are not allowed to charge more than four annas per annum to the local people fishing for their own consumption.

(*b*)—Many fisheries and *beels* are not settled even now but reserved for the use of local people. Government are not aware that the practice has not always been observed.

697.—The information is not available in the Secretariat and Government do not consider that the time and trouble involved in collecting the figures would be commensurate with the result. Besides it is not clear whether information for Nowgong or the whole province is wanted.

Proclamation of the Hon'ble East India Company of 1824

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

698. Will Government be pleased to place the full text of the Proclamation of the Hon'ble East India Company to the people of Assam, in April, 1824, on the table of the House ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

698.—Government are unable to trace any such Proclamation.

Percentage of the land revenue collected from 1923-29 to 1935-36 in the Assam Valley Division

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

699. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(1) The percentage of land revenue collected by the Mauzadars by the 15th January and 15th February every year for the last eight years beginning from 1928-29 ?

(2) The percentage of the total land revenue collected from 1928-29 to 1935-36 year by year in the Districts of the Assam Valley Division ?

(3) In how many cases *advertisement* for sale of landed properties and *warrants* for attachments of moveable properties were made for arrear of land revenue during the last eight years beginning from 1928-29 to 1935-36 year by year in the Districts of the Assam Valley Division ?

(4) The total demand of land revenue of the mouzas in which the mouzadars were convicted for embezzlement or misappropriation of land revenue during the last five years ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

699. (1)—The information asked for is not readily available and cannot be compiled without disproportionate labour.

(2)—The percentage of the total land revenue collected for these eight years is laid on the library table.

(3)—A statement showing the number of warrants of attachment issued and the number of estates notified for sale during these eight years is laid on the library table.

(4)—A statement giving the information is laid on the table.

Statement showing the percentage of the total land revenue collected from 1928-29 to 1935-36 in the Assam Valley Division

Districts	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36
Goalpara ...	85	87	61	56	50	31	70	65
Kamrup ...	97	88	76	63	67	60	61	66
Darrang ...	97	93	79	70	65	65	66	71
Nowgong ...	99	97	75	67	71	67	73	75
Sibsagar ...	96	94	77	67	63	67	65	65
Lakhimpur	99	99	87	76	78	76	72	78
Garo Hills	100	93	89	81	72	76	77	80

Number of aided Lower Primary Schools and Dispensaries in Sunamganj

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

700. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Lower Primary Schools and Dispensaries aided by the Local Board of Sunamganj or Government in the Thanas of (*i*) Tahirpur, (*ii*) Dharmapassa and (*iii*) Shulla ? (To be shown separately).

(*b*) The mileage of roads, Local Board or Public Works Department within the limits of aforesaid "Thanas" (to be shown separately).

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

700. (*a*) and (*b*)—The information wanted by the hon. member is as follows—

	Lower Primary Schools		Dispensaries		Mileage of roads	
	Local Board	Government	Local Board	Government	Local Board	Public Works Department
(*i*) Tahirpur ...	19	Nil	1*	Nil	10·30	Nil.
(*ii*) Dharmapassa ...	39	Nil	2+2*	2 Public Health Department temporary dispensaries.	21·52	Nil.
(*iii*) Shulla ...	11	Nil	1*	Nil	Nil	Nil.

Note.—Items marked * are institutions aided by the Board ; items not so marked are institutions maintained by the Local Board.

Abolition of Primary Schools by Goalpara Local Board

SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS asked :

701. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Local Board of Goalpara recently abolished 27 Primary Schools ?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state the reason for it ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a resolution was passed in September, 1929, by the Local Board of Goalpara to the effect that the number of students on the roll of a Primary School should not be less than 20 and average attendance per month should not be less than 15 ?

(*d*) If so, why have the schools been abolished ?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to state (*i*) whether any resolution has since been passed, annulling the resolution mentioned in question (*c*) above ? (*ii*) If so, has the Local Board informed the School Managing Committee about it ?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of pupils on the roll of each of the abolished schools ?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the Local Board is reconsidering the question of starting the said schools ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

701. (*a*)—Twenty-six Lower Primary Schools which were considered by the Board to be inefficient were abolished and 3 were amalgamated. At the same time the Board decided to take up 10 schools in the current year so that actually the number of schools was reduced by 19.

(*b*)—The Commissioner pointed out that in the Goalpara Local Board budget for 1937-38, the allotment for communications was estimated as Rs.26,485.

The estimated grant from Government was Rs. 14,800 and the estimated receipt from cart tax Rs. 14,500, a total of Rs 29,300.

The Commissioner wrote that he could not pass the budget until the difference between Rs. 29,300 and Rs. 26,485, *i.e.*, Rs.2,815 was provided by the Board for communications. His reason was that the cart tax and Government grant should be devoted to communications. The Commissioner did not suggest from what head the sum should be saved. Actually the Board saved the amount by closing inefficient schools. The Commissioner accepted the Board's proposal subject to the condition that the Inspector of Schools agreed. The Inspector of Schools did not agree and the matter is at present under the consideration of Government.

(*c*)—The Commissioner reports that such a resolution was passed but Government have not so far been able to trace it from the Board's proceedings as forwarded to them.

(*d*)—See reply to (*b*) above.

(*e*)(*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—Not in writing but verbally through the Local Board inspecting staff.

(*f*)—A list is laid on the table.

LIST REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO QUESTION 701 (*f*) BY SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS, MEMBER, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

For 6 months from July to December 1936.

Name of the schools	Enrolment	Attendance
1. Kharmuja	26	19
2. Koraikhowa	26	17
3. Kakoijona	24	19
4. Kusiakata	26	17
5. Khoragoan-Kochpara	26	19
6. Komrakata	24	17
7. Barkhata	26	17
8. Dewan-gaon	29	18
9. Rampur	21	15
10. Bardamal	24	17
11. Chahari	27	17
12. Megho-Balasari	27	18
13. Kholisabhita	29	18
14. Karipara	22	18
15. Bardak	12	10
16. Kalpani	22	16
17. Habang-giri	22	18
18. Chenimari	25	15
19. Lela-Sagunbasi	22	18
20. Guabari	26	19
21. Kurhiamari	29	18
22. Medhibari	27	14
23. Bakrapara	24	17
24. Gohaibari	24	17
25. Sarapara	33	17
26. Bodahpur	33	18

N.B.—More importance is attached to the average attendance than enrolment because in most cases boys though their names appear on the roll remain absent in major part of the year.

(*g*)—It is reported that when funds permit the Board intends to make up the number.

Damages to crops by Dhalas in Sunamganj Subdivision

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI asked:

702. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware of the following:—

(*a*) that damages are annually done to the crops over large areas in Police Station Jagannathpur in the Sunamganj Subdivision, by the several *dhalas* in that thana *elaka*.

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister please state the extent of the area and the number of people affected thereby ?

(*c*) What steps, if any, has the Hon'ble Minister taken to prevent such damages ?

(*d*) If no such steps have been taken, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take immediate steps for preventing such damages from being caused ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

702.(*a*)&(*b*)—Government are aware that crops in this area, as in many other parts of Sylhet, are liable to damage from flood water, the extent of the damage and the area affected depending on the height of the flood.

(*c*) & (*d*)—No steps have been taken or are at present contemplated. Government do not undertake to irrigate dry land, and cannot promise to drain flooded land. Moreover the *dhalas* also bring silt and silt up some of the lowest land and improve it. To bund them up might improve the prospect of crops on some land but would be likely seriously to affect other land and the flood water would certainly force another passage elsewhere.

Newspaper article *re* consequence of the new Constitution

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

703. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article নতুন শাসন প্রবর্ত্তনর ফল which appeared in weekly "Assamiya", dated 12th June 1937 ?

704. Is it a fact that three graduates were thrown out of employment from the Deputy Commissioner's office at Gauhati after their service for more than a year ?

705. If so, will Government be pleased to state on what basis of qualifications they were taken in ?

706. Will Government be pleased to consider about the hardship of their cases and to provide them as soon as possible ?

707. Is it a fact that there are three clerks in the Deputy Commissioner's office at Gauhati who have not yet been confirmed in their appointments though they have been serving in their posts for the last three years or so?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

703.—Yes.

704.—Yes. They were thrown out of employment in temporary posts because caste Hindu representation was excessive, and appointments had to be given to a Moslem and a Schedule Caste Hindu and a Tribal candidate who were entitled to them on communal considerations. The three thrown out, had actual service of 3, 7½ and 12 months, respectively.

705.—The minimum qualification was Matriculation. They were taken in on a temporary basis.

706.—Their cases will be considered if suitable vacancies occur, subject to observance of rules regarding communal representation.

707.—There are two temporary clerks with services of over three years who have not secured permanent appointments.

Purchase of Mahals by Government

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked:

708. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue Department be pleased to state :—

(*a*) If it is a fact that at the time of Revenue sale of the Permanently settled estates, Government purchased "Mahal" at Re.1 (one) each where the bids were less than the arrears of Revenue and Local Rates ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that even when the outsiders bid was more than the Government bid of Re.1 (one) they were not allowed to purchase the "Mahals" even at their highest bids ? If so, why ?

(*c*) Whether Government are trying to convert the permanently settled estates into "Ellam Mahals" through such procedure ?

(*d*) Whether the Hon'ble Revenue Minister propose to arrange the Revenue sale at the 1st week of December 1937 ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

708.(*a*) and (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to rule 141 at page 107 of the Land Revenue Manual : the officer conducting the sale may purchase the estate for Government at Re.1 if there is no bid, or at the highest amount bid if such amount is insufficient to cover the arrear due. Government are not aware of any cases of infringement of the provisions of this rule.

(*c*)—No.

(*d*)—No.

Ordinary Revenue Demands on land for 1936-37

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

709. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the ordinary revenue demands on land for 1936-37—

(*a*) For the "old grants" in the—

(*i*) Assam Valley.

(*ii*) Surma Valley.

(*b*) For the permanently settled estates in the—

(*i*) Assam Valley.

(*ii*) Surma Valley.

(*c*) For the temporarily settled estates in the—

(*i*) Assam Valley.

(*ii*) Surma Valley.

710. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(*a*) When was the Colonisation Scheme introduced in the Barpeta subdivision and when was it abandoned ?

(*b*) How much land was thrown open for the scheme from (*i*) the reserve, and

(*ii*) the other areas ?

(*c*) How much of these lands were settled on payment of premium and how much is under occupation without any such payment ?

(*d*) How much premium was received under the scheme during the period of its operation ?

(*e*) How much expenditure was incurred thereunder during the said period ?

(*f*) What were the causes of its failure and how did the Government try to remove these causes ?

(*g*) Whether Colonisation Schemes are working satisfactorily elsewhere and if so, where and for how long ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

709. (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—The figures for 1936-37 are not yet available.

710.(*a*)—The colonisation scheme was introduced in Barpeta subdivision in 1929 and abandoned in 1932.

(*b*) (*i*)—Two lacs twenty-five thousand three hundred and ninety-eight bighas was thrown open for cultivation from the professional grazing reserves and an additional area of 86,547 bighas was subsequently thrown open in 1930 from similar sources.

(*ii*)—Thirty-five thousand and ninety bighas was thrown open from other areas.

(*c*)—The information is not available.

(*d*)—The total amount realised either in cash or from loans as premium amounted to Rs.9,272.

(*e*)—Exact figures are not available but it was calculated that for the year 1932-33 a sum of Rs.8,176 was likely to be expended by Government.

(*f*)—The experiment was found financially unprofitable. The area concerned was exceptionally hard hit by the economic depression and it proved almost impossible to realise the usual colonisation charges. Moreover, the area thrown open was very much larger than was concerned in the colonisation schemes of Nowgong and Mangaldai and it was impossible for one man to manage it satisfactorily.

(*g*)—In Nowgong and Mangaldai the colonisation schemes have been working satisfactorily since the year 1929.

Assessment and classification of lands in Sylhet district

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

711. Is it a fact that the Local Rates Officer of Sylhet has started assessment and classification of lands without any survey of the lands of the district ?

712. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to give the number and total area of plots of land (Char or otherwise) gained by alluvion and dereliction of a public navigable river as contiguous accession to the permanently or otherwise settled estates in Sylhet, settled by the Government as its " Illam" land by annual Khiraji and periodic leases ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to communicate the legal position to the officer concerned in the matter and will Government take such steps as to make good the loss sustained by the rightful proprietors of the plots of land gained from the recesses of a river ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

711.—The hon. member's attention is invited to section 10 of the Regulation and rule 3 of the Rules thereunder. Survey is only necessary in the case of large estates whose owners apply and pay for it. In all other cases no survey is necessary.

712. (*a*)—The information is not available and Government are not prepared to undertake an enquiry extending over a hundred years back to obtain it.

(*d*)—Government officers are quite well aware of the existence and terms of the Bengal Alluvion and Diluvion Regulation : any person aggrieved may seek his remedy in the Civil Courts.

Assam Money Lenders' Act (Act IV of 1934)

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

713. Are Government aware of the fact that under Section 9 of the Assam Money Lenders' Act (Act IV of 1934) no courts shall in respect of any loan made before or after the commencement of this Act, decree on account of arrears of interest a sum greater than the principal of the loan ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

713.—Yes.

Sylhet-Chhatak Railway project

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

714. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a pamphlet on the subject of the Sylhet-Chhatak Railway project, published by the Pallimangal Samity, Lakshmibassa, Sylhet ?

(*b*) If so, do Government contemplate taking any action thereon ?

715. Do Government propose to keep in abeyance the Sylhet-Chhatak Railway project till the existing roads between Sylhet, Chhatak and Sunamganj are developed to the fullest limit of their economic capacity ?

716. Do Government propose to take early steps for linking up Chhatak and Sunamganj with the rail-head at Sylhet, by developing, out of Road Board allocations, a system of trunk and Feeder Roads ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

714. (*a*)—Yes.

714. (*b*) and 715.—As the proposal for building a Railway between Sylhet and Chhatak has been dropped the questions do not arise.

716.—The new road improvement programme includes a scheme for connecting up Sylhet and Sunamganj.

Officiating Director of Public Health

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMA asked :

717. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) If it is a fact that the present officiating Director of Public Health's record of service during the past 4 months is satisfactory ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative whether he can be confirmed in that post thereby avoiding the necessity of appointing an Indian Medical Service Officer and effecting an economy ?

(*c*) If it is a fact that in case Dr. Paul, the present officiating Director of Public Health is confirmed in that post, Government propose to keep in abeyance the post of a Second Assistant Director of Public Health and place the present Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of both valleys for reasons of economy ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

717. (*a*)—Government refuses to discuss the merits of their officers on the floor of the House.

(*b*)—The position is that the post of Director of Public Health, Assam, is a post in Schedule II of the Regulations made in 1932 by the Secretary of State under Rule 12 of the Devolution Rules, and Indian Medical Service Officers appointed to Civil employ before the 10th May 1928 have under those Rules "a right of appointment to the posts under Local Governments which are specified in Schedule II". The Governor-General in Council has already appointed a Selection Committee to assist him in considering the claims to the vacancy of Officers of the Indian Medical Service who joined Civil employment before the 10th May 1928.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

Names of Contractors engaged in Subdivisions of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

718. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the contractors, engaged in the Subdivisions of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh, with the value of the works noted against their names, for the year 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38 ?

719. Will Government be pleased to state whether a circular was issued by the Public Works Department to their subordinates to give preference to the indigene, even if the rates are higher than the others ?

720. Do Government propose to take steps against the officer, who has been found to act against that Circular ?

721. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to rescind such order of the Officer ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

718.—No. The amount of labour involved will not be commensurate with the result.

719.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to Question No.23 asked at this session by Srijut Paramananda Das.

720.—Government have no reasons to believe that instructions on the subject have not been acted upon.

721.—Does not arise.

Total cost of erection of the Council Chamber

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

722. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the total cost incurred—

(*a*) for the erection of the Council Chamber

and

(*b*) for furniture and other equipments for the Chamber ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

722. (*a*)—Final payments for the erection of the Council Chamber have not been made up till now. The estimated total cost is Rs.1,04,394.

(*b*)—The total expenditure incurred on furniture and other equipments to end of July is Rs.3,821.

Erosion of Nowgong by Kallong river

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

723. Are Government aware that the town of Nowgong is being threatened by the Kallong river at several points ? If so, what steps are being taken to protect it from erosion ?

724. Is it a fact that the measures that are being taken from time to time have proved to be not very effective, and even those measures are not taken in due time ?

725. Is it a fact that the Superintending Engineer after inspection of the site last year suggested to Government to provide stone pitching at some weak points where the public works is severely threatened and accordingly submitted an estimate for the same to the Government ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what has become of the matter ?

726. Will Government be pleased to take up the suggestion of the Superintending Engineer and act up to it forthwith to protect the town ?

727. Are Government aware that nothing was done last year in this regard although an estimate for repairing the old spurs and pallisades was prepared for Rs.1,044 and the estimated sum was duly deposited by the Municipality.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

723.—Government are aware that slight erosion has taken place but do not consider that the town of Nowgong can be described as "threatened".

724.—No.

725.—Yes, the Superintending Engineer suggested using stone pitching as an economy in place of the temporary work done yearly.

726.—An estimate has been framed and the cost included in the Budget estimates. The matter is awaiting the passing of the budget by the Assembly.

727.—The Municipality did not deposit the funds for the work until the 5th June 1937 and it was then too late to take up the work.

Jorhat State Railway

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked:

728. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Jorhat State Railway was made over to the Steamer Companies under an agreement for 10 years ?

(*b*) Whether the then members from Jorhat of the Assam Legislative Council were consulted before the terms of the agreement were settled ?

(*c*) Whether the Assam-Bengal Railway also offered to take up the line ?

(*d*) Whether the line was given to the Steamer Companies in preference to the Assam-Bengal Railway ?

(*e*) If so, why ?

(*f*) Whether the Steamer Companies have offered to run the line after the expiry of the present lease ?

(*g*) If so, under what terms ?

(*h*) Whether it is a fact that the Assam-Bengal Railway has again offered to take up the line ?

(*i*) Whether it is a fact that the Assam Government are bound under the terms of the agreement referred to in question (*a*) above, to give preference to the Steamer Companies over any other candidate, if the Steamer Companies offer to continue ?

(*j*) What do Government propose to do with regard to this line ?

729. Do Government propose to consult the Jorhat Public before anything is done in this matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

728. (*a*)—It was leased to the Steamer Companies from the 1st day of October 1927 to 30th September 1937.

(*b*)—Yes. Mr. K. Saikia, Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha, late Rohini Kanta Hati Barua and Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali represented the local interest in the meeting of the Railway and Steamer Communications Advisory Board in which the matter was discussed on 15th January 1927.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—Yes.

(*e*)—The terms offered by the Steamer Companies were better than those offered by the Assam-Bengal Railway.

(*f*)—Yes.

(*g*)—The Steamer Companies have offered to renew the lease on certain conditions and as this is now a Federal Railway the matter is being considered by the Railway Board.

(*h*)—Government have no information.

(*i*)—Yes. [The Assam Government have no control over future agreements. This is a matter for the Railway Board].

728 (*j*) and 729.—From 1st April 1937 the Railway has become the property of the Federal Government and the question of extending the present lease or otherwise disposing of this Railway is a matter for the Central Government to decide.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 19th August 1937)

Use of the term " Assam Valley "

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI asked :

730. Will Government please state (*a*) when and by whom the term " Assam Valley " instead of " Brahmaputra Valley " came into use, and

(*b*) what was the reason therefor ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

730.(*a*)—The term " Assam Valley " was first used officially in a Government of India, Home Department Notification, dated the 13th April 1876. The term has been in use ever since.

(*b*)—Because it was considered the most suitable nomenclature.

Selection of non-Assamese from Assam for Indian Police Service

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS asked :

731. Will Government be pleased to state —

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that three non-Assamese have already been selected from Assam for the Indian Police Service since 1929 ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that in other provinces selections are made from different communities ?

(*c*) Whether steps are being taken by Government to have candidates of unrepresented communities selected when making appointments for this service in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

731.(*a*)—Presuming that appointment to the Indian Police by direct recruitment from Assam is referred to, the answer is in the negative. Only one officer has been recruited, whose family have been domiciled in Assam for three generations. Since 1929 two officers have been promoted to the service, both natives of Assam.

(*b*)—Government have no information.

(*c*)—The recruitment to the Indian Police is made on a provincial basis by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Government of India, after holding a competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission. This Government have no say in the matter.

Procedure *re* transfer of Police Officers

MAULAVI MABARAK ALI asked :

732. Is it a fact that there is a circular by the Government of Assam that the Police Officers are to be transferred to their respective valleys after a period of 5 years' service in the other valley ?

733. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the circular is acted upon properly ? If not, why not ?

734.(*a*) Is it a fact that many Police Officers, who are the inhabitants of Surma Valley have not been transferred to their own valley though they have served more than 5 years in the Assam Valley (*b*) If so, why ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

732.—There is no such circular ; but as a general rule officers are not retained for more than four years at a stretch in the valley foreign to them.

733.—Does not arise.

734.(*a*) and (*b*)—There are now eight Sub-Inspectors of the Surma Valley who have been serving in the Assam Valley for more than five years. They will be transferred to their own valley as and when the exigencies of the public service permit.

Death rolls from cholera in the province of Assam

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

735. (*a*) Will Government please place on the table the death rolls from cholera in the province of Assam, subdivision by subdivision, from January to May 1937 ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that South Sylhet was declared an epidemic area ?

(*c*) If so, what steps, if any, has Government taken to combat and prevent the epidemic and are there still cases of cholera there ? Has Government ascertained the causes of the outbreak ?

(*d*) Did the Minister, Local Self-Government, make any personal enquiry and visit the affected area ?

(*e*) If so, will Government place on the table the information so ascertained ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the outbreak was mainly due to scarcity of water supply ?

(*g*) If the reply is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have Government taken to provide for pure water supply in the affected areas ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

735. (*a*)—A statement is placed on the table.

A statement showing the death rolls from cholera in the province of Assam, subdivision by subdivision, from January to May 1937

District	Subdivision	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Cachar ...	Hailakandi	...	...	2	40	30	72
	Silchar	...	2	7	34	64	107
Sylhet ...	North Sylhet ...	24	1	13	101	105	244
	Habiganj ...	35	28	29	131	233	456
	Sunamganj ...	21	...	2	4	95	122
	Karimganj ...	24	6	36	103	208	377
	South Sylhet ...	43	32	113	434	220	842
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Shillong	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Jowai	...	...	...	...	...	...
Naga Hills ...	Kohima	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mokokchung	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lushai Hills ...	Aijal	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Lungleh	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garo Hills ...	....	1	...	...	...	...	1
Goalpara ...	Dhubri ...	15	...	2	21	3	41
	Goalpara	...	...	3	...	...	3
Kamrup ...	Gauhati	...	2	10	18	59	89
	Barpeta	...	...	13	18	22	53
Darrang ...	Tezpur	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Mangaldai	...	...	3	5	16	24
Nowgong ...	....	9	...	...	6	4	19
Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Jorhat	...	...	...	...	5	5
	Golaghat	...	3	3	2	...	8
Lakhimpur ...	North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dibrugarh	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sadiya ..	....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balipara ...	....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manipur ...	....	...	...	...	...	2	2

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—All possible steps were taken. Additional staff was sent to the affected areas and inoculation and distribution of bacteriophage was done on an extensive scale. The Director of Public Health visited the infected areas twice and supervised the arrangements personally. Up to the end of May over 120,000 inoculations were given in the subdivision exclusive of tea garden areas where, it is reported, over 30,000 inoculations were given. The main cause of the outbreak was infection carried from Tripura State by the Dalai and Manu rivers. Fuller details of the steps taken by Government are given in a "Brief Account of the cholera epidemic in the South Sylhet subdivision" which is laid on the Library table.

(*d*)—The Hon'ble Minister was in constant touch with the course of the epidemic and received daily telegraphic reports. He did not personally visit the area.

(*e*)—Does not arise.

(*f*)—Water scarcity and want of rain throughout the subdivision undoubtedly prolonged the course of the epidemic but as already stated the infection was brought in from outside.

(*g*)—Provision of a pure water supply is of course one of the prime duties of the Local Board. So far as Government is concerned a sum of Rs. 16,000 for rural water supply was allotted to the South Sylhet subdivision from the grant of 5 lakhs made by the Government of India for rural uplift in 1935-36 and a further sum will be allotted in due course from the further grant of 5 lakhs which has been promised by the Government of India.

Outbreak of Cholera Epidemic in South Sylhet Subdivision

MAULAVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

736. Is it a fact (*a*) that the recent outbreak of Cholera Epidemic in the South Sylhet Subdivision was due to the want of good drinking water in the rural areas thereof ?

737. If so, will Government be pleased to state the action they propose to take to remove this cause of the outbreak of Cholera there ?

738. Do Government propose to adopt the policy of " Prevention is better than Cure " by spending adequate sum for removing the causes than for combating the epidemic while allowing the causes to continue ?

739. Do Government propose to allot an adequate sum of money for supply of good drinking water in rural areas suffering from scarcity of water supply, in particular those that have been frequently visited by Cholera epidemic ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

736 to 739.—The hon. member is referred to the answers to similar questions asked by Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Choudhury at the present session.

Classification of Headmasters in Assam

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :

740. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state—

(*a*) If the Headmasters in Bengal belong to the Bengal Educational service ?

(*b*) If so, whether Government propose to raise Headmasters in Assam to the Assam Educational Service ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

740.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—No. Any money available must be devoted to much more urgent schemes.

G. R. Case No. 261 of 1927

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

741. Is it a fact that Babus Bipin Behari Dass and Gopal Ch. Phukan, Police Inspectors, were sued for an amount of Rs.3,000 in the Sub-Judge Court of Cachar for bringing false Criminal Case (G. R. Case No. 261 of 1927) and that the Sub-Judge, Cachar, decreed that suit and that decree had been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court ?

742. Is it a fact that the Additional Session Judge of Cachar while disposing of the Criminal Case No. 261 of 1927, Cachar appeal No. 7 of 1928 passed severe stricture upon the Police Officers and held them responsible for ruthless trespass, wrongful confinement and for causing grievious hurt to Ramija Bibi, an old woman of 65 ?

743.(*a*) Is it a fact that in the face of the judgment of the case mentioned in question No. 19 the Government bore all the expenses of the cases on behalf of the Police Officers ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount of the cost in both Civil and Criminal Courts, original and appellate ?

744. Is it a fact that Government has also advanced the decretal amount ?

745. If the replies to questions Nos. 743 and 744 are in the affirmative, do Government propose to realise the full amount spent from these officers ?

746. Is it a fact that after the disposal of the Criminal Appeal and during the pendency of the Civil suit, the Police Officers concerned were given promotion ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

741.—Yes.

742.—Yes.

743.(*a*)—Government paid only the legal expenses.

(*b*)—Rupees 1,608-8-0 in the Civil suit in both the original and the First Appellate Court. The expenditure in the Criminal case is not available as the records have since been destroyed.

744.—Yes.

745.—No. A large part of the decretal amount was realised from certain Police Officers concerned.

746.—Only one Sub-Inspector was given promotion.

Jaigun Bibi Murder Case

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

747. Is it a fact that a case under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code was started by the Balaganj Police, Sylhet, against Muzaffar Ali, Tahir Ali and others of village Katalkhair and that case ended in acquittal of the accused persons ?

748. Is it a fact that the very same Muzaffar Ali and Tahir Ali were also prosecuted for the murder of Jaigun Bibi but the prosecution had to withdraw that case against three persons ?

749. If the answers to questions 747 and 748 are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state the intervening period passed between the starting of the case under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code and that of the withdrawal of the murder charges against them ?

750. Is it a fact that during the pendency of the said case under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Khan Bahadur Mofizur Rahman, retired Assistant Director of Land Records, and Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Raza Choudhury, both M.L.As. stood surety for the accused but that the accused were not released on bail and that the fitness of the above gentlemen were left to be certified by the subordinate Police Office?

751. Will Government be pleased to state the number of day taken by the learned Magistrate in the disposal of the said case including the camp-days ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

747.—Yes.

748.—Yes.

749.—The murder charges were withdrawn on 9th January 1936 while the proceedings under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, were instituted on 18th May 1936.

750.—Yes, but Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Raza Chaudhury withdrew his offer afterwards. Khan Bahadur Mofizur Rahman and another, however, stood sureties for the accused who was released on their bail. The fitness of sureties was tested by the Court in accordance with the powers and procedure prescribed by law.

751.—The case under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, was instituted in the court on 18th May 1936 and the Judgment delivered by the Magistrate on 31st August 1936.

Allegations against the Head Master of Ramsundar High School, Biswanath

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

752. Is it a fact that the Head Master of Ramsundar High School, Biswanath, was charged with misappropriating a sum of Rs. 261 from the school fund ?

753. Is it a fact that Government found the allegations against the Head Master to be true ?

754. If the answer to questions 752 and 753 are in the affirmative will Government be pleased to state whether he is still in service as the Head Master of that very institution ?

755. Is it a fact that 3 members of the Managing Committee of the School brought these allegations to the notice of the school authorities ?

756. Is it a fact that these members were compelled to resign from the membership of the Managing Committee for putting forward these allegations against the Head Master ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

752.—An allegation to this effect was made.

753.—No. The charge of misappropriation was found to be not true but the Head Master was found to have committed an irregularity.

754.—Does not arise.

755.—Yes.

756.—No.

Present Director of Agriculture

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

757. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the present Director of Agriculture is on extension ?

758.(*a*) Is it a fact that all Government officers should retire in due time to make room for new recruits ?

(*b*) If so, why this policy is not operating in the present case ?

759. Will Government please state, why this policy is not adopted in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

757.—Yes. He was given an extension from 12th January 1937 to 31st August 1937.

758.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—He has been retained on public grounds under Fundamental Rule 56(*a*).

759.—Under Fundamental Rule 56(*a*) the Local Government can retain an officer in service after the age of 55 on public grounds.

Non-publication of results of various examinations of the Calcutta University in the *Assam Gazette*

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

760. Is it a fact that great inconvenience is being felt by the people of Assam on account of the non-publication in the *Assam Gazette* of the results of the various examinations held under the Calcutta University ?

761. If so, do Government propose to see that at least the results of the examinees appearing from the schools and colleges of Assam are published in the *Assam Gazette*?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

760.—Representations have been received from the student community that they are put to inconvenience by the non-publication of the results in the *Assam Gazette*.

761.—The matter is under consideration and Government will do their best to help Assam students in this respect.

Death roll in South Sylhet Subdivision on account of cholera havoc

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

762. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether cholera annually visits many villages in the district of Sylhet ?

(*b*) Whether it wrought havoc in the district carrying away hundreds of souls from the South Sylhet Subdivision alone within the course of three months ?

If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to combat this disease and other epidemics ?

(c) Is it a fact that dearth of good water was mainly responsible for the loss of hundreds of lives in the South Sylhet Subdivision ? If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to improve water supply in villages ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

762. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. To combat epidemics Government maintain 5 special epidemic units in the Public Health Department and provision has been made in the current year's budget for two additional epidemic units. Furthermore the Public Health Department are constantly endeavouring by propaganda to instil into the people the rudimentary ideas of hygiene.

(c)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to a similar question asked by Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhury at the present Session.

Publication of the results of the Examinations of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities in the *Assam Gazette*

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

763. Do Government of Assam propose to publish simultaneously the results of the Examinations of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities from time to time in the *Assam Gazette* ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

763.—The hon. member is referred to the replies to a similar question asked by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar at this session of the Assembly.

The number of appointments made by the Public Service Commission

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

764. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of sittings of the Public Service Commission during the months of April, May and June 1937 month by month ?

(b) The number of appointments the Public Service Commission have dealt with during the aforesaid months of April, May and June ?

(c) The maximum number of appointments the Public Service Commission are expected to deal with in the year 1937-38 ?

765. Will Government be pleased to state the total annual expenditure of the Public Service Commission including the salaries of the Chairman and Members, Establishment, Contingencies and other expenses, if any, in this connection ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

764. (*a*)—April 9
May 9
June 18

(*b*)—31.

(*c*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to the question on the subject in this session of the Assembly by Maulavi Abdur Rahman.

765. (*a*)—The hon. member is referred to page 67 of the Detailed Budget Estimates for 1937-38.

Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA asked :

766. (*a*) Is it a fact that the premises of the Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School are highly congested and in a wretched condition ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state when they are going to utilise the site which was acquired some years ago for the purpose of having a new building on it for the said school ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

766. (*a*)—Government are aware that the buildings are seriously overcrowded and that work is being carried on under most difficult conditions.

(*b*)—A proposal to this effect is at present under the consideration of Government.

Re : post of Commissioner of Excise

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

767. Will Government be pleased to state if the present Commissioner of Excise belongs to Provincial Civil Service and is an Indian ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

767.—He is an Indian holding a listed post in the I. C. S. cadre.

Text of the Yandaboo Treaty of 1826.

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

768. (*a*) What is the full text of the Yandaboo Treaty of 1826 ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to place it on the table of the House ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

768.(*a*) and (*b*) The hon. member is referred to pages 354-357 of Aitchison's "Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads relating to India and neighbouring countries," Volume I, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

Enfranchisement of tea garden labour under the New Constitution

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

769. Is it a fact that the tea garden labour has been enfranchised under the New Constitution ?

(*a*) Are they organised at present ?

(*b*) If not, do Government propose to encourage them to be organised by taking outside help, if necessary ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied ?

769—Yes.

(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Government consider that this is a matter for the political organizations of the country whose legitimate activities they will not in any way obstruct.

Stipends for training in goldsmiths work and in ivory carving.

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

770.(*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that works of goldsmiths and ivory workers of this province compare ill with those of other provinces, and require training outside the province for the purpose ?

(*b*) If so, will he be pleased to sanction sufficient number of stipends at least for some years, for the said purpose ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

770.(*a*)and(*b*)—Stipends for training both in goldsmith's work and in ivory carving have been sanctioned from time to time in the past and the present Government are quite prepared to grant stipends for those purposes to suitable candidates, who apply to the Director of Industries and are recommended by him.

Area of grazing Lands in Ahotguri Mauza

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

771. Will Government be pleased to state the total area of grazing lands in Ahotguri Mauza of Golaghat Subdivision ?

772. Is it a fact that the villages named Puranimati, Talsibari, Bagali, Bohikhowa-Mirigaon, Somua, Bormuri Solaboa, and Sitaldubi Mirigaon, are being eroded by the Brahmaputra river ?

773. Is it a fact that many arable lands of the *ryots* of the villages named in question 28 have been eroded by the Brahmaputra and Kalakota rivers ?

774. Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken to provide lands for the people of these villages by opening some of the lands reserved for grazing ?

775. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is a "Doba" called Patrighuli in the Ahotguri Mauza ?

Leasing of a Doba in North Lakhimpur as a fishery

776. Will Government be pleased to state whether this "Doba" was in the exclusive possession of the Miris of the locality from a very long time ?

777. Is it a fact that this "Doba" is the only source of drinking water for these Miris ?

778. Is it a fact that this Patrighuli was leased out recently by the authorities to some up-country men ?

779. If so, do Government propose to consider to stop leasing out this "Doba" as a fishery ?

780. Will Government be pleased to state the price at which this "Doba" was leased out ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

771.—The total area of professional grazing reserve is 21,939 *bighas* 2 *kathas* and 10 *lessas*. There is no village grazing ground in this mauza.

772.—Six villages—Puranimati, Talasibari, Bagali, Bohikhoa Mirigaon, Samua and Sitaldubi Mirigaon have been gradually washed away by the Brahmaputra leaving a small portion still unaffected and two villages Bormuri and Solaboa are being eroded by the Kalakata Suti.

773.—Yes.

774.—Steps are being taken to provide lands for these people.

775.—No.

776.—There is a "Doba" of this name in the adjacent subdivision of North Lakhimpur which has always been leased out as a fishery.

777.—It is a big "Doba" and the Miris who live on its bank use the water for drinking purposes without any restriction.

778.—It appears from the report of the Tahsildar, Majuli, that Partighuli was always leased out since the creation of Bhati-Lohit fishery, and that there was no objection by the Miris in the past until recently. It is leased out by the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur. An up-country man living at Tezpur was the lessee of this fishery for last year.

779.—Government see no reason to discontinue a longstanding practice.

780.—The information has been called for.

Realisation of Selami from the tenants by the Bijni Raj Court of Wards Estate

SRIJUT PARAMANANDA DAS asked :

781. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether the Bijni Raj Court of Wards Estate realises Rs.3 or so from Khutaghat pargana tenants and Re. 1-8 0 or so from Habraghat pargana tenants as Selami for petition ?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state which sorts of petitioners are required to pay such Selami ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that no application for settlement or mutation is accepted without that Selami ?

(*d*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether any legal opinion was obtained as to its legality ?

782. (*a*) Is it a fact that a tax named Khutgari tax is realised by the Goalpara District Zemindars ?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) from whom it is realised ?

(*ii*) what is the general rate of that tax ?

(*iii*) who fixed that rate ?

(*iv*) whether any legal opinion was obtained as to its legality ?

(*c*) The law under which the tax is realised and the regulation or regulations guiding the realisation of the taxes ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

781. (*a*)—The fee is levied not as Selami but as petition fee—which is a consolidation of survey fee, notice fee, searching fee, etc.

(*b*)—Settlement and mutation petitioners pay the fee referred to in (*a*) above.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—No. The practice has been in vogue since the pre-court time.

782. (*a*) to (*c*)—Government have no information of recent realisation. The persons aggrieved can have recourse to the remedy prescribed by law.

Promotion in the Police Department

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

783. Will Government be pleased to state what is an accelerated promotion in the Police Department ?

784. Is it a fact that the recognition of the principle of accelerated promotion has the effect of depriving senior and experienced Sub-Inspectors from their claim to promotion ?

785. Is it a fact that the present Inspector General of Police organized a meeting of all Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors at Gauhati and Sylhet last winter to adopt this new policy ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

783.—"Accelerated promotion" is the system whereby a small number of vacancies in the rank of Inspector is filled by Sub-Inspectors of outstanding merit in preference to less meritorious seniors.

784.—No. Senior and experienced Sub-Inspectors who deserve promotion will continue to get it.

785.—No.

Expenditure incurred in connection with travelling allowance of the Police Department

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

786. Will Government be pleased to state what expenditure had to be incurred by Government in the travelling allowance paid to all the officers including Deputy Inspector General, Assistant to the Inspector General of Police, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

786.—The total expenditure incurred in 1936-37 is as follows :—
Travelling allowance—

	Rs.
Voted	1,19,730
Non-Voted	22,098

Expenditure in connection with Pay and Establishment of Divisional Commissioners and number of Deputy Superintendents of Police

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMA asked :

787. Will Government be pleased to state :—
(*a*) Pay and Establishment and other expenses of the Divisional Commissioners ?
(*b*) Number of Deputy Superintendents of Police and their pay and travelling allowance, etc.?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

787. (*a*)—The cost of their pay and establishment and other expenses incurred during the last financial year are as follows :—

	Rs.
(*i*) Pay of Officers (Non-voted)	73,936
(Voted)	9,608
(*ii*) Pay of establishment (voted)	60,630
(*iii*) Allowances and honoraria (Non-voted) ...	7,096
(voted) ...	1,714
(*iv*) Contingencies (Non-voted)	225
(voted)	6,274

(*b*)—There are ten Deputy Superintendents of Police. The expenditure incurred on account of their pay and travelling allowances, etc., during the year 1936-37 is as follows :—

	Rs.
Pay and allowances of Deputy Superintendents of Police	54,369
Grants for uniform of Ditto ditto	400
Travelling allowances of Ditto ditto	5,069
Total ...	59,838

Executive Engineer's Office, Khasi and Jaintia Hills

REV. L. GATPHOH asked:

788.(*a*) Is it a fact that there are only two tribal people in the Executive Engineer's Office, Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the tribal people are very much under-represented in this office ? If so, why not more Khasis appointed ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that vacancies are filled up without advertisements ?

789. If the reply is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state :—

(*i*) The dates of advertisements in the last 3 years, (*ii*) the names of applicants, (*iii*) the names of persons appointed and (*iv*) the number of tribal people (Khasis) appointed in this office ?

790. Is it a fact that one Abinash Purkayastha, a Muhorrir of Shillong subdivision, was taken in the Divisional Office, Shillong, as a clerk without advertising the vacancy ? If so, why was not the vacancy advertised and why a Khasi was not taken ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

788.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes. Government have issued order that vacancies shall be advertised in the Gazette and local papers and appointments made from the under-represented communities when qualified candidates are available.

(*c*)—Not except for purely temporary posts. Two temporary posts were filled in 1936 without advertisement, the persons appointed being retrenched clerks to whom preference is shown.

789.—(*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) does not arise.

790.—Abinash Purkayastha is a retrenched clerk with 3 years' service. Since retrenched, he has been employed as a Mohorrir and has been employed several times as a clerk in leave vacancies since then, and was recently employed in a temporary post.

The duties and functions of the Public Service Commission

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

791. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(1) The duties and functions of the Public Service Commission ?

(2) Total annual recurring expenditure including pay of the members as well as cost of establishment entailed by the appointment of Public Service Commission ?

(3) Number of appointments likely to be made annually by the Public Service Commission on the basis of last three years' average ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

791.(1)—The hon. member is referred to Section 266 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

(2)—The hon. member is referred to page 67 of the Detailed Budget Estimates for 1937-38.

(3)—The average cannot be readily worked out, nor is it possible to give any information as to the number of appointments as many incalculable factors are involved, such as death, transfer, promotion, retirement, etc.

Monopoly for running Motor Service over the Gauhati-Shillong Road and Sylhet-Shillong Road

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

792.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state if any monopoly has been granted to any Company or individual to run motor service in Shillong-Sylhet Road ?

(*b*) If the answer to question 792(*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the name of the Company or individual to which or whom the monopoly has been granted with the terms granting such monopoly ?

(*c*) If the answer to question 792(*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the terms and conditions granting licenses to run motor service in the Shillong-Sylhet Road and the names of the Company or Companies, individual or individuals to which or whom such licenses have been granted for the current year ?

793. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state :—

(*a*) The terms and conditions granting licenses to run motor service between Dimapur and Imphal ?

(*b*) Names of the Company or Companies, individual or individuals to whom such licenses are granted ?

794. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the distance in miles between the following places :—

(*i*) Shillong and Gauhati ?
(*ii*) Shillong and Pandu ?
(*iii*) Shillong and Sylhet ?
(*iv*) Dimapur and Imphal ?

795. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) the usual rates of fares charged by the different Companies, individuals or licensees for carrying passengers in the different classes between the following stations—

(*i*) Shillong-Gauhati ?
(*ii*) Shillong-Pandu ?
(*iii*) Shillong-Sylhet ?
(*iv*) Dimapur-Imphal ?

(*b*) the rates of freight charged per maund of goods between the above mentioned stations ?

(*c*) whether there is any difference in freight for different kinds of goods ?

(*d*) If the answer to question 796(*c*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the different rates for the different kinds of goods ?

796. Wil the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to enquire and state the amounts of contribution received by the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, for carrying mails between Shillong-Gauhati and Pandu stations ?

797. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to enquire and state :—

(*a*) the names of the firm, company or individual carrying mails between (*i*) Dimapur and Imphal, (*ii*) Shillong and Sylhet ?

(*b*) the amount of the contribution received by them for carrying mails between the stations referred to in 797(*a*) above ?

798. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of licenses granted to other persons than the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, for carrying goods on the Shillong-Gauhati-Pandu road ?

(*b*) To whom such licenses referred to in 798(*a*) above are granted ?

(*c*) The terms and conditions for granting such licenses ?

(*d*) Whether the number of such licenses can be increased ?

(*e*) If the answer to question 798(*d*) above is in the affirmative, what number, if any, do Government propose to increase this year ?

799. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that the rates of freight charged by such licensees are much lower than the rates of freight of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited ?

800. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state —

(*a*) the total number of employees under the service of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, including menials, to run the administration of the Company, and

(*b*) what number has been recruited from the Province, showing the number in the various grades with their pay ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

792.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—A copy of the notice calling for tenders and a copy of the special permit for motor vehicles let or plied for hire on the Shillong-Sylhet Road are placed on the Library table. The names of the permit holders are given below—

1. The Sree Lakshmi Motor Transport Company, Limited.
2. The Shillong-Transport and Trading Company, Limited.
3. The Carriers Limited.
4. The Shillong-Cherra Motor Service.
5. Messrs. Mahari and Sons.
6. The Shillong Banking and Trading Corporation Ltd.
7. The United Fruit Company Limited.
8. Sylhet-Shillong Motor Union Service.

(These permits are for the period from 1st April 1937 to 31st December 1939)

793.(*a*)—The terms and conditions of the permits will be found at pages 85-89 of the Assam Motor Manual.

(*b*)—There were 134 such permits issued during 1936-37 and a list of the names is laid on the Library table. Government were unable to obtain the information for the current year in time.

794.—

(1) Shillong and Gauhati	...	...	...	63 miles.
(2) Shillong and Pandu	...	...	...	68 ,,
(3) Shillong and Sylhet	...	...	...	86 ,,
(4) Dimapur and Imphal	...	...	...	133½ ,,

795.(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*)—Permit-holders may charge any rate subject to the maximum rates of fares and freights prescribed by Government. Copies of notifications prescribing these rates are placed on the Library table.

796.—Rupees 17,500 per year.

797(*a*) and (*b*)—The information is given below :—

	Rs.	
Dimapur-Imphal—		
Manipur State Durbar	28,800	yearly
Shillong-Sylhet road—		
Messrs. Mahari and Sons...	2,760	yearly

798.(*a*) and (*b*)—A statement is given below :—

Names of permit holders for ordinary permits other than Commercial Carrying Company	No. of permits issued
1. Rai Bahadur Jiban Ram Agarwala	one permit
2. Mr. F. E. Unger	,, ,,
3. Ka Glorimai Ryndem	,, ,,
4. The United Fruit Company, Limited	,, ,,
5. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate	,, ,,
6. Maulavi Wahid Ali	,, ,,
7. ,, Maula Buksh	,, ,,
8. Rai Sahib Sonadhar Das Senapati, M.L.C. ...	,, ,,
9. The Shillong Hydro-Electric Limited	,, ,,

(*c*)—A copy of the permit with an extract of paragraph 2 of letter No.7710-M.V., dated 1st December 1936, is placed on the Library table.

(*d*)—Yes. If traffic justifies an increase.

(*e*)—This will depend on traffic requirements and will be considered when and if additional permits become necessary.

799.—Government have no information.

800.(*a*) and (*b*)—The information is given below :—

Nature of appointment	Pay between	Total employees	Native of Assam
	Rs.		
Subordinate Officers	85—250	8	1
Clerks and Typists	30—80	44	24
Office peons	16—22	13	5
Travelling Ticket Inspectors	40—95	2	1
Chowkidars	15—22	25	...
Car-washers and Tyremen	15—22	17	1
Coolies	16—22	38	...
Drivers	25—80	38	15
Handymen-Driver	15—25	41	15
Workshop Operatives...	10—100	72	34
Running Room Cooks	13—16	2	...
Running Room Servant	7	1	...
Sweepers	15—25	4	...
	Total ...	305	96

Lease for the management of the Jorhat Provincial Railway

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

801. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) To whom has the lease for the management of the Jorhat Provincial Railway been given and what are the terms and conditions of the lease and for what period ?.

(*b*) Whether Government pays any subsidy, if so, what amount ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the term is going to expire before September next ? If so, does Government intend to take it under its own management ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Railway authorities have increased the pay of the staff and have been showing loss every year ?

(*e*) Has any inspection of accounts been made by Government ?

(*f*) What are the earnings of the Railway from passengers and goods for the last three years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

801.(*a*)—To the Steamer Companies, *viz.*, the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited and the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited represented by their Agents Messrs. Macneill & Co. and Managing Agents, Messrs. Kilburn & Co., respectively. A copy of the agreement with the Steamer Companies is laid on the Library table.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—The term will expire on 30th September 1937. Since 1st April 1937 this Railway has become a federal Railway and the question of its future management is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

(*d*)—Government have no information as to whether the pay of the staff has been increased. The Railway has been run at a loss.

(*e*)—The accounts are audited by the Chartered Accountants Messrs. Lovelock & Lewes and submitted to Government for perusal.

(*f*)—The earnings of the Railway are as follows :—

	Passengers	Goods
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1934	36,447 5 9	79,909 12 3
1935	29,633 5 9	95,790 5 9
1936	27,284 13 6	83,903 5 9

Attachment and sale for arrears of land revenue

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

802. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whethe the properties mentioned in section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code as exempted from attachment and sale are also exempted from attachment and sale for arrears of land revenue ?

(*b*) If so, whether actually they are exempted from attachment ?

(*c*) If not, why they are not exempted ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

802.(*a*)—Not all. The hon. member is referred to section 69(3) of the Assam Land Revenue Regulation.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—Because the Civil Procedure Code does not govern the realisation of arrears of land revenue.

Miri Rayats of Tangani Reserve

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

803. Is it a fact—

(*a*) That Miri rayats were allowed to occupy 8 square miles of Tangani Reserve in 1932 ?

(*b*) That since the order Deswali Khutiwallas were not ordered to remove from the area inspite of repeated requests from the Miris ?

804. Will Government be pleased to lay on the Library table all the connected papers in connection with the eviction of Miri rayats of Tangani Reserve filed before the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur, Circle Sub-Deputy Collector, Commissioner and Local Government ?

805. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state under what section of Assam Land Revenue Regulation the eviction proceedings were taken up ?

806. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the stay of execution of Eviction Order of Government was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur ?

807. Is it a fact that the Miris filed a petition before the Circle Sub-Deputy Collector 4 or 5 days before the actual eviction, to stay eviction order as they had filed an appeal before His Excellency the Governor ?

If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this prayer was forwarded to and rejected by the Deputy Commissioner ?

808. Will Government be pleased to state what is the minimum time in which Burisuti is reached from Dibrugarh Town ?

809. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Library table the petition, if any, in which the Tangani Miris expressed a desire to shift to Akajan ?

810. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased tostate whether the Deputy Commissioner ascertained the number of Miris residing at Tangani and Baligaon ; and, how many of them put their signatures or thumb impressions signifying their consent to go to Akajan ?

811. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give the boundary of the Tangani Reserve and of the 8 square miles granted to Miris ?

812. Will Government be pleased to state the boundary of the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

803. (*a*)—An area of about 8 square miles was thrown open for settlement with Miris in 1932.

(*b*)—Until the orders were cancelled by the notification dated the 7th April 1936, the graziers were not allowed to establish bathans in this area after 1932.

804.—As the papers are confidential, they cannot be laid on the Library table.

805.—The Miris were holding annual *pattas*. As it was decided to stop settlement in this area action for ejectment was apparently taken under Settlement Rule 18, read with Settlement Rule 1 (*c*), in view of the fact that Government notification throwing open this area was cancelled.

806.—The Government order was passed on the 6th May 1937 and issued to Commissioner on the 10th May 1937 who in turn transmitted it to the Deputy Commissioner on 17th May 1937 and the latter's office received it on 19th May 1937.

807.—Yes: the prayer was rejected by the Deputy Commissioner who had no knowledge of the appeal as it had been filed direct in Shillong.

808.—Government have no precise information but probably between 6 to 8 hours may be required at this time of the year.

809 and 810.—The Deputy Commissioner visited the area some time in February 1936 when he consulted the Miris and other local people who supported the proposal to throw open the entire Akajan professional reserve for ordinary cultivation and to reinclude in the Tangani professional reserve the area thrown open in 1932. The Miris were also prepared to vacate the area opened up by them for cultivation. In view of this nothing was apparently done to get signatures, etc., on paper. The Commissioner enquired specifically into this point and found that the Miris had so agreed.

811.—Boundaries of Tangani Reserve.

North and West—Tanganijan, Obhatajan and Sissi Nadi.
East—Junction of Tanganijan and Busuti forming Dijmur Nadi.
South—Tanganijan, Digpamjan and Busuti.

Boundaries of 8 Square miles.

North and West—Obhatajan and Sissi Nadi.
East—Tanganijan.
South—Trunk Road.

812.—The hon. member is referred to the Survey Department map of the Lakhimpur District from which he will be in a position to see the boundary of the subdivision.

Erection of permanent bridges over the Pagladia and Buradia Rivers

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

813. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works Department aware—

(*a*) That the people of Khata, Batahgila Paschim Banbhag, Natun Dehar and several other neighbouring Mauzas have been undergoing great hardship for want of permanent bridges over the Pagladia river at Kariara ghat and over the Buradia river at Buradia ghat in the district of Kamrup ?

(*b*) That the people of these Mauzas are being prevented from taking full advantages of the educational institutions, hat, bazar, hospital and village dispensaries, etc., which their neighbouring town provides ?

(*c*) That the tolls levied at the said Public Works Department Ferry are depriving the cultivators of those Mauzas from getting proper value for their agricultural produces ?

(*d*) That the poor cultivators of these Mauzas are making fervent and persistent appeals to Government for constructing permanent bridges over these two rivers and for saving them from paying tolls ?

814. If so, do Government propose to take early steps for erecting permanent bridges there and to do away the tolls altogether ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

813. (*a*)—The people of this district are not suffering any greater hardship due to the lack of permanent bridges than are the inhabitants of other districts where there are no permanent bridges.

(*b*) and (*c*)—The hon. member is referred to the answer given to the same question put by him under 449 (*c*) during the present session of the Assembly.

(*d*)—Petitions for permanent bridges have been received.

814. The hon. member is referred to the reply already given during this session of the Assembly to his question No.450.

Contract for Carrying on Motor Service over the Pandu-Shillong Road

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

815. Will Government be pleased to state when the contract between the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited and the Government of Assam for carrying on the Motor service over the Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Road will terminate ?

816. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said contract ?

817. Do Government propose to grant the monopoly again to the said Company or to any other party for motor service over the said road ?

818. Will Government be pleased to state the present rates per mile of freights for goods and fares for passengers of various classes charged by the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited on the Pandu-Shillong Road and the rates in the motor services on the Shillong-Sylhet and Dimapur-Imphal roads respectively ?

819. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which no monopoly to any particular company has been granted over the Shillong-Sylhet and the Dimapur-Imphal roads ?

820. Do Government recognise that (*a*) the rates of freight and fare charged by the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited are highly exorbitant and inequitable when compared with those charged by the motor companies working on the Shillong-Sylhet and Dimapur-Imphal roads ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps to reduce the rates of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited accordingly ?

821. Do Government recognise that the monopoly for passenger service and other concessions for carrying goods given to the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, have been causing great hardship to the people of the Assam Valley districts ?

822. Is it a fact (*a*) that rice, fish and vegetables, etc., from Gauhati and its neighbourhood have almost ceased to be imported to Shillong for exorbitant rates of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to discontinue this practice of giving monopoly at the earliest possible time ?

823. Do Government propose to see that the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited give their passengers the right to carry free of charge personal luggage including beddings, etc., up to 20 seers in weight in case of third class passengers and proportionately in other classes ?

824. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the total number of employees working under the said Company, (*b*) how many of them are Assamese and (*c*) in what capacity do they work ?

825. Do Government propose to insist upon the Company to give a fair representation to the Assamese in the various departments of the Company ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

815 and 816—The hon. member is referred to replies given to starred question No.12(*a*) and (*b*) of Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assembly.

817.—No monopoly has been granted to the Company. Government will consider the matter in due course.

818.—The hon. member is referred to replies given to question No. 795(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) of Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assembly.

819.—Government did not consider it necessary to grant a monopoly to any particular Company.

820.(*a*)—It is a matter of opinion.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

821.—No. See answer to question 817 above.

822.(*a*)—Government have no information.

(*b*)—The hon. member is referred to reply given to question No. 17.

823.—Government cannot make any alteration in the agreement of the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited during its present tenure.

824.—The hon. member is referred to replies given to question No.800(*a*) and (*b*) of Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., during the current session of the Assembly.

825.—Government have no control over appointments made by the Company.

Dhantola Country Liquor Shop

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

826. Is the Minister in charge of the Excise Department aware that the people of the locality where the Dhantola Country Liquor Shop in Kamrup District is situated are highly against the continuance of the shop in their midst and are appealing to Government for its removal and even submitted a memorial (dated 27th August 1937) to His Excellency Sir Michael Keane for redress ?

827. Will Government be pleased to refer to question No. 205 put by Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (now Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Department) in the Assam Legislative Council in October 1936 and consider the desirability of discontinuing the shop ?

828. Do Government propose to direct that the license for the shop should not be renewed after the expiry of the present one ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

826.—The site of the shop was sanctioned by the previous Government after full enquiry. An appeal from certain residents of the locality was submitted to the late Governor but was rejected.

827.—The shop is reported to be supplying a local need. There are many persons of the drinking classes in the locality and unless they can get licit liquor they will take to illicit liquor. This Government will, however, make an enquiry and reconsider the question.

828.—This question will be considered by this Government.

Number of cases of burglary and defalcation in the Government offices and treasuries

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

829. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—(*i*) the number of cases of burglary and defalcation in the Government offices and Treasuries which were detected in the Province ?

(*ii*) The total loss which can be accounted for in such cases ?

(*iii*) (*a*) The number of poddars who are engaged in the Government Treasuries in the Province ?

(*b*) The number of Musalman poddars.

(*c*) The number of poddars who have got their Fidelity Bonds in Trust with Government ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

829. (*i*) & (*ii*)—A statement is laid on the table. In the case of item (2) the net loss fell on the Central Government.

(*i*)—*Statement showing defalcations in treasuries and sub-treasuries*

Year	Treasury	Coins or stamps	Amount involved	Recovered	Balance
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
(1) 1931-32	Lakhimpur ..	Stamps ..	11,531 4 0	7,864 6 4	3,666 13 8
(2) 1932-33	Gauhati ..	Coins and Notes.	27,195 13 6	13,415 10 8	13,780 2 10
(3) 1936-37	Barpeta (Sub-treasury).	Stamp ..	300 0 0	....	300 0 0
(4) ,,	Sylhet ..	Stamp ..	73,965 13 0	(The case is *sub judice*).	

(ii)—Defalcations in offices

Year	Place	Coins or stamps	Amount involved	Recovered	Balance
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
(5) 1931-32	North Lakhimpur subdivision.	Government money (agriculture).	633 0 4	....	633 0 4 (written off).
(6) ,,	Lakhimpur district	,,	467 12 6	467 12 6	....
(7) 1932-33	Court office, Mangaldai.	Government money.	204 15 0	204 15 0	....
(8) ,,	Deputy Commissioner's Office, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	,,	14,145 0 0	14,145 0 0	....
(9) 1933-34	Office of Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar.	,,	4,129 6 3	1,500 0 0	2,629 6 3
(10) ,,	Office of the Government High School and Deputy Inspector of Schools, Sylhet.	,,	431 0 0	431 0 0	....
(11) 1935-36	Deputy Commissioner's Office, Sylhet.	Fine money	4,251 0 0	350 0 0	3,901 0 0

(iii) (a) (b) & (c)—The information has been called for.

Number of venture Lower Primary Schools in Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

830. *(a)* Will Government be pleased to state the number of venture Lower Primary schools that have not yet been taken over by the Local Board in the district of Nowgong, and how many of them have been in existence for *(a)* over 10 years, *(b)* over 5 years *(c)* over 2 years and why ?

(b) If they have not been taken over for want of funds do Government propose to consider the desirability of giving sufficient grants to the Nowgong Local Board to enable it to take over those schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

830. *(a)*—Eighty-three of which 15 have been in existence from 5 and 10 years and 35 from 2 and 5 years. The rest are new.

(b)—There is an additional provision of Rs.50,000 in the current year's budget for grants to Local Bodies for taking over venture schools and Nowgong will get its share if the provision is passed by the Assembly.

Cost of establishment and upkeep of the Gauhati-Shillong Road and the Sylhet-Shillong Road

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

831. Will Government be pleased to state the annual repair expenses including the cost of establishment of the Gauhati-Shillong Road, as well as of the Sylhet-Shillong Road, separately, for the said roads, for the last two years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

831—A statement is laid on the table showing the cost of repairs inclusive of "Work Establishment".

Statement referred to in reply to question No.831 to be asked by Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan, M. L. A., at the Budget session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, 1937

	EXPENDITURE 1935-36					EXPENDITURE 1936-37				
	Annual repair	Special repairs	Flood damage repairs	Cost of establish-ment	Total	Annual repair	Special repairs	Flood damage repairs	Cost of establish-ment	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gauhati-Shillong Road.	1,17,791	32,609	1,486	10,823	1,62,709	72,368	86,366	5,845	8,802	1,73,381
Sylhet-Shillong Road.	1,61,136	7,902	72,011	9,409	2,50,458	1,37,489	41,058	19,292	11,284	2,09,123

Award of Literary Pension to Babu Jogendra Chandra Deb, Editor Sonar Gauranga

BABU BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

832.(*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education aware that Babu Jogendra Chandra Deb, Editor, "Sonar Gauranga", was given an assurance by the previous Government of a literary stipend, when funds were available ?

(*b*) If so, what steps have been taken by the present Government to ulfil that assurance ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

832.(*a*)—No. The late Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education in reply to a question regarding the award of a literary pension to Babu Jogendra Chandra Deb stated that "he was willing to consider all cases and not only the case of this particular individual".

(*b*)—As there was no assurance this does not arise.

Superintendent of the Muslim Hostel attached to the Government Jubilee High School, Sunamganj

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI asked :

833. Is it a fact that there is no arrangement of quarters for the Superintendent of the Muslim Hostel attached to the Government Jubilee High School, Sunamganj ?

834. Is it a fact that the Superintendent is to reside along with the students in the same block ?

835. Do Government propose to arrange separate quarters for the Superintendent immediately ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

833 and 834.—There are bachelor quarters for the Superintendent in the same block as the pupils' hostel.

835.—This will be considered when funds are available.

Provision for education of scheduled caste people

BABU AKSHAY KUMAR DAS asked :

836. Will Government be pleased to state what measures are being taken to provide special facilities for education of the scheduled caste people as a result of the scheduled caste conference (Depressed class conference) held at Shillong on the 13th February, 1934, with the then Education Minister as President and under the patronage of the then Governor, Assam.

837. (*a*) Has the Hon'ble Minister given effect to the resolutions passed at that conference ?

(*b*) If so, what ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

836.—The proceedings of the Scheduled Caste conference were dealt with by the late Government. As the result of that Conference two Middle Vernacular and two Middle English Scholarships were reserved for the scheduled castes. Furthermore, the attention of Local Bodies was drawn to the needs of the scheduled castes in the matter of primary education and to their claims for a fair share of the scholarships reserved for the backward classes. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and Director of Industries were also informed that though Government did not consider that there was sufficient ground for reservation of seats for scheduled castes in Medical and Technical institutions irrespective of the quality of the applicants, special considerations should be shown to applicants for admission who belonged to such castes.

The appointment of a Special Officer to look after the educational needs of the Depressed Castes was agreed to in principle but could not be sanctioned on account of financial stringency.

837. (*a*) and (*b*)—The resolutions were dealt with by the late Government over two years ago and did not come before the present Government.

Income from the Cart Tax for the last three years

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

838. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state the income of the Province from the Cart Tax for the last three years, year by year ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

838.—Cart tax is imposed by Local Bodies and forms part of their income. It forms no part of the provincial income. The income of Local Bodies from this source for each of the last three years has been Rs.1,56,538, Rs.1,64,593 and Rs.1,76,810.

Number of Haj pilgrims in Assam

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOWDHURI asked :

839. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Haj-pilgrims who went on pilgrimage from Assam for the last five years—year by year, separately ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

839.—The information so far as available is given below :—

Year	Total No.
1932	33
1933	17
1934	43
1935	148
1936	234

Barpeta-Sarukhetry-Tihu Road in Barpeta subdivision

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

840. Will Government be pleased to state if they propose to take up the Barpeta-Sarukhetry-Tihu Road in the Barpeta subdivision ? If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

840.—No. Government consider there are other roads the improvement of which is of greater urgency.

Sunamganj-Pagla-Gobindganj-Sylhet Road

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

841. (1) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware that very great inconvenience is caused for want of suitable means of communication, connecting Sunamganj with the district headquarters (Sylhet) ?

(2) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take immediate steps for removing the grievances ?

(3) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sunamganj-Pagla-Gobindganj-Sylhet Road has been included in the immediate and urgent projects of the Assam Communication Board programme ?

(4) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take up this project at once ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

841. (1)—The matter has been brought to the notice of Government.

(2)&(3)—The Sylhet-Sunamganj road has been included in the proposed programme of road improvements.

(4)—Yes, if and when the project is approved by the Assam Communications Board and the Assam Legislative Assembly and financed by the Government of India.

Appointment of Babu Sailendra Mohan Datta as Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

842. Will Government be pleased to state if Sailendra Mohan Datta, Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, Dibrugarh, is an Overseer ?

843. Is it a fact that he has superseded more than 60 Overseers ? If so, has any Overseer who has thus been superseded put in any petition to the authorities for this supersession ?

844. If so, has any action been taken on this petition ? If not, do Government propose to take any action ?

845. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the *Sylhet Chronicle* in its issue of 31st March last to the caption " Pricking the Bubble "...(contributed), and to its concluding portions. " As regards the appointment of Babu Sailendra Chandra Datta and his superseding 67 Overseers, it is said that two successive Chief Engineers took a fancy of his attainments and technical skill and strongly urged his lift as promised at the time of his appointment "?

846. Is the statement contained therein true ? Is it a fact that a promise was given at the time of his appointment ?

847. Will Government be pleased to state who gave the said promise and what the exact promise was ? Could a promise like this be given ? Has Government given any such promise to anybody else in the Public Works Department ?

848. Will Government be pleased to give the names of two successive Chief Engineers who strongly urged his lift ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

842—848.—The hon. member is referred to replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at the current budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, 1937.

Policy of granting contract works under the Public Works Department at Gauhati

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

849. (*a*) Do Government propose to enquire and state how many contract works were given this year in the town of Gauhati and in the neighbourhood under the Public Works Department ?

(*b*) Who were the recipients of these contracts ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state why some old contractors were not given the works, which they had performed before ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that eight contract works were given to Non-Assamese ?

(*e*) If so, why this was done ?

(*f*) Is it a rule under Government that *bonafide* Assamese should be given the first preference ?

(*g*) Is it a fact that only in case of paucity of suitable Assamese contractors the works can be given to others ?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the policy of granting contract works under the Public Works Department at Gauhati ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

849. (*a*) and (*b*)—A statement is laid on the table of the House.

'a'—

Tenders accepted by the Executive Engineer, Lower Assam Division, for 1937-38 in the town of Gauhati and its neighbourhood

Serial No.	Tender No.	Name of the contractor	Community	Approximate value of work
1	11K	Khan Sahib Md. Edakhan	Muslim (Domiciled).	2,775
2	13K	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	2,230
3	18K	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	3,048
4	24K	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	1,693
5	12K	Babu Siba Prashad Banerjee.	Domiciled (Hindu)	1,968
6	14K	Srijut Jibanananda Chaudhuri.	Assamese (Hindu)	3,000
7	15K	Srijut Thanu Ram Talukdar.	Ditto ...	2,360
8	16K	Srijut Nabin Chandra Chaudhuri.	Ditto ...	1,600
9	17K	Babu Girija Kumar Das	Domiciled (Sylhet Hindu).	1,400
10	19K	,, Sukhendra Nath Banerjee.	Bengali (Domiciled Hindu).	2,227
11	20K	Md. Tajul Islam ...	Muslim ...	3,049
12	21K	Srijut Sambhu Ram Barua	Assamese (Hindu)	2,364
13	22K	,, Debendra Mohan Goswami.	Domiciled (Hindu)	2,190
14	23K	Jagrup Mistri	Domiciled (Hindu)	2,791
15	25K	S. Kishan Sing... ...	Ditto ...	2,340
16	26K	Srijut Harchand Chaudhuri.	Assamese (Hindu)	2,264
17	27K	Babu Harigopal Banerjee	Domiciled (Hindu)	1,620
18	28K	Srijut Harish Chandra Goswami.	Assamese (Hindu)	2,116
19	29K	Messrs. Kamakhya Electric Company.	Foreigner (Bengali Hindu) (Electric Works.)	756
20	30K	Babu S. M. Naha ...	Ditto ...	756

'b'—

Tenders accepted by the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, Gauhati, for 1937-38 in the town of Gauhati and its neighbourhood

Serial No.	Tender No.	Name of the contractor	Community	Approximate value of work
1	1Kp	Babu Siba Prashad Banerjee.	Domiciled (Hindu)	50
2	6Kp	Mahendra Sing ...	Ditto ...	48
3	7Kp	Srijut Tarini Das ...	Assamese (Hindu)	600
4	18Kp	Ditto	Ditto ...	60
5	12Kp	Khan Sahib Md. Edakhan	Muslim (Domiciled)	130
6	13Kp	Babu Nabagopal Banerjee	Domiciled (Hindu)	300
7	15Kp	,, Romesh Chandra Dutta.	Foreigner (Bengali) Electric Work.	43

(*c*)—There are many possible reasons such as increased rates, keen competition etc., etc.

(*d*) and (*e*)—No.

(*f*)—Assamese and domiciled contractors are given preference.

(*g*)—No.

(*h*)—The hon. member is referred to the answer given to Question No. 23 asked by Srijut Paramananda Das during the present session of the Assembly.

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES, VOL.II, No.14 OF 1937

No.17

At page 1578, for question No."851", *read* question No."850" and *renumber* the subsequent question accordingly.

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

(*d*) The total amount of Income-Tax and Super-Tax realised from Assam and allocated between the Provincial Government and Central Government.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

851.—As the hon. member is aware, the Local Government are merely the agents of the Government of India in regard to most of the matters dealt with in this question. They relate to matters of central subjects over which this Government or House has no control. On that ground, I could decline to reply, but I am submitting such information as is available.

(*a*) Rs.1,57,47,274 in 1936-1937.

(*b*) Government have no information. It is understood, however, that the figure may be available from the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board C/o The Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.

(*c*) Government have no information as to the total amount realised from the export duty on jute so far as Assam is concerned. But after deducting the expenditure on collection the amount allotted to Assam in 1936-37 was Rs.9,86,000 based on 50 per cent. of the net collections. From 1937-38 this Government is to receive 62½ per cent. of the net collections and this is estimated by the Government of India at Rs.11,16,000.

		Rs.
(*d*) Income-Tax	... ...	25,41,346
Super-Tax	... ...	5,28,624
	Total ...	30,69,970
Assam's share	... ...	3,15,615

The above figures are for the year 1936-37 and Assam's share was based on Devolution Rule 15 under which the province received 3 pies in the rupee on the difference between the assessed income of 1936-37 and that for the year 1920-21. From the current year, however, section 138 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, issued thereunder come into operation.

Roads, Bridges, Buildings and Embankments maintained by the Public Works Department

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

852. Will Government be pleased to state the names of (1) Roads, (2) Bridges, (3) Buildings (4) Embankments that are under the supervision of the Public Works Department of the Province ?

853. Will Government be pleased to state the amount borrowed for improvement of the Trunk and other Roads ? What is the amount of interest paid annually for the loan ?

854. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (1) Construction of a metalling new road (2) Bridges, (3) Making of roads (4) Construction of embankments (5) Buildings, if any, with the amount ?

855. Has the total loan been drawn ? If not how much is still to be drawn ?

856. How many new officers were appointed for carrying out the Road Board scheme ?

857. Does the Road Board scheme include any village roads ?

858. Will Government be pleased to state if with the Roads, Bridges and Buildings having become permanent many of the staff of the Public Works Department may be eliminated without impairing the efficiency ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

852.—Lists of roads and embankments maintained by the Public Works Department are placed on the Library table. No separate printed register of bridges is maintained but all the bridges on the roads mentioned in the list are maintained by the Public Works Department.

The registers of buildings are of such a voluminous nature that the information required cannot be given.

853.—The amount borrowed was Rs. 58,70,000 which was to be repaid in thirty yearly equated instalments. Actually only Rs. 5,53,897 of the principal was repaid and the balance of Rs. 53,16,103 was written off on 1st April 1937. A sum of Rs. 20,31,234 was paid as interest during the years 1930-31 to 1936-37.

854.—The expenditure from loan was as follows—

	Trs.
1. Second Road Board programme	29,05
2. Construction of the Shillong-Jaintiapur Road ...	16,22
3. Construction of two major bridges	2,91
	48,18
Pro rata Establishment and Tools and Plant charges on the above.	10,52
	58,70

A statement is laid on the Library table.

855.—The entire amount given in the answer to question No. 853 was drawn in instalments as required.

856.—Eleven.

857.—Many villages are situated along the roads improved.

858.—Roads, bridges and buildings do not become permanent in the sense that they no longer required to be maintained. The present Public Works Department staff is below the minimum strength required for the working of the Department. This year's expenditure on Road Fund works alone amounts to Rs. 11,05,800.

Average assessment of Local Rates per acre of settled land

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

859. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the average amount of local rates paid for an acre of holdings in the following districts of Assam :— Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Lakhimpur and Sibsagar ? (*b*) If the average assessment equal ? (*c*) If not, why not ?

860. Will Government be pleased to take steps to equalise the levy of local rates in all the districts of Assam ?

861. If not, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of reducing the Government grants in the same proportion as it falls below the average ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

859.(*a*)– The average assessment of local rates per acre of settled land is shown in the statement laid on the table.

TAKEN FROM LAND REVENUE REPORT FOR 1935-36

(*Appendices I and XII*)

	Area in acres	Local rate	Local rate per acre		
		Rs.	Rs.	a.	p.
Sylhet	30,19,479	2,80,364	0	1	5·4
Cachar	6,41,128	63,383	0	1	5·1
Goalpara	19,21,216	1,88,786	0	1	6·8
Kamrup	1,161,737	1,84,278	0	2	6·4
Darrang	8,06,342	1,08,265	0	2	1·7
Nowgong	5,76,826	81,756	0	2	2·2
Sibsagar	11,32,934	1,84,894	0	2	7·3
Lakhimpur	8,37,106	1,39,714	0	2	8

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—Because the annual value of lands differs in different districts and also because the rate of assessment has increased by progressive resettlements in the Assam Valley but has remained stationary in the permanently settled districts.

860.—Government already took steps for this purpose by enacting the Assam Local Rates Amendment Act of 1932.

861.—Does not arise.

Illicit realisation of land revenue in Garubat mauza in Nowgong district for the year 1936-37

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

862. Is it a fact that the people of Garokhunda, Domaihagi, Chaibuk, Kaoimari and some other villages of Garubat Mauza, Nowgong, were coerced under various pretexts by the Mauzadar and his men to pay in excess of the land revenue demand for the year 1936-37, a sum varying from annas two to annas four per each *patta* ?

863. Is it a fact that the Sub-Deputy Collector, Kampur Circle, came across several cases of such illicit realisation ?

864. Is it a fact that the Sub-Deputy Collector enquired into the matter ?

865. If so, will Government be pleased to state the findings and result of his enquiry ?

866. Is it a fact that Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora, M. L. A., submitted a representation regarding the matter and drew the pointed attention of the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister ?

867. Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken against the Mauzadar and his men guilty of such illegal realisation ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

862—865.—Some *raiyats* of Garokhunda, Domaihagi, Chaibuk, Kaoimari and some other villages of Garubat mauza mainly Sylheti settlers complained that the Mauzadar and his men realised from them a sum varying from annas two to annas four per *patta* in excess of land revenue demand for the year 1936-37. The Sub-Deputy Collector, Kampur, inquired into these cases and found that the money was realised in lieu of work on rebuilding a camp house for the Mauzadar which had fallen into disrepair. The people concerned, mainly Sylheti settlers declined to rebuild it in accordance with the prevailing custom and preferred to contribute in cash. Receipts were given for all sums taken. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner he directed the Mauzadar to refund the money and warned him.

866.—Yes.

867.—No final orders have been passed and the matter is under consideration.

Procedure regarding appointments in the Police Department

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

868. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police and Writer Constables in Assam, since 1935 up to date, district by district and year by year, with their nationalities and qualifications ?

869. (*a*) Is it a fact that the rules of the Government Manual regarding appointments are not strictly followed by the Police Department ?

(*b*) If so, what led Government to violate the rules regarding appointment of Police in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

868.—Two statements containing the particulars about Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police are laid on the Library table.

So far as the Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police are concerned, the information is not readily available. There is no rank of writer constable.

869.(*a*)—No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Allocation of taxes between Assam and Central Government

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

870. Is it a fact that Government of Assam get a certain percentage of Income-Tax from the Government of India ?

871. Is it a fact that the companies, the headquarters of which are in Calcutta but who derive their income in Assam pay income-tax in Calcutta ?

(*a*) If so, how much ? (*i*) Do Government of Assam get a share of this income-tax ? (*ii*) If so, how much ? (*iii*) If not, will Government be pleased to take steps to have their due share ?

872. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the total quantity of jute exported from Assam to Bengal and their value ?

(*b*) If they get the due share of jute tax on Jute exported from Assam ?

(*c*) If not will Government be pleased to institute an enquiry ?

873. Will Government be pleased to state if there are persons on the borders of Assam to check the illicit export of jute from Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

870.—The hon. member is referred to the answer given to question No. 851 (*d*) asked by Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah at the present session of the Assembly.

871.—Yes.

(*a*)—Income-tax was paid on Rs. 81,19,964 in 1936-37. The actual amount is not known. (*i*) to (*iii*)—Up to 1936-37 this Government received 3 pies in the rupee on the difference between the assessed income of 1936-37 and that for the year 1920-21. The actual amount is not known and is now of academic interest only as this system of allocating the income-tax has been superseded by the Government of India Act, 1935.

872.(*a*)—The amount of jute exported varies from year to year. The figures for the last three years are as follows :—

1934-35	...	...	...	2,229,540 maunds.
1935-36	...	...	...	1,849,010 "
1936-37	...	...	...	3,950,381 "

The value is not known as it depends on the price realised by the cultivator at the time the sale is made.

(*b*) and (*c*)—Assam received 50 per cent. of the net proceeds from the year 1934-35 to the year 1936-37 and with effect from the current year the percentage has been raised to 62½ per cent.

873.—No. The question of illicit export from Assam does not arise as the duty is realised only on exports from India.

Post of a tracer in the Public Works Department Office at Tezpur

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

874. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—
(*a*) Whether a vacancy is going to be created in the post of a tracer in the Public Works Department Office at Tezpur due to the retirement of the present hand ?
(*b*) If it is a fact that the vacancy has already been filled up before the officer has retired ?
(*c*) If so, how it was filled up and who has got the appointment ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

874. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*) and (*c*)—Yes. The vacancy has been filled up by appointing Babu Dhirendra Kishore Roy, who had previously worked in a temporary capacity and was highly recommended by his superiors for further employment when occasion should arise. His father has recently retired from Government service after many years' meritorious service.

Transfer of the present Deputy Commissioner of Darrang

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

875. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—
(*a*) Whether Government is in receipt of the resolution No.17 passed at the last Naduar Ryot Sava held in Lehugaon on the 21st and the 22nd June last ?
(*b*) If so, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter urged by the public ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

875. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—The question of transferring the Deputy Commissioner will be considered in the ordinary course.

Erection of a Bridge over the Brahmaputra river near the Amingaon Station

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

876. Will Government be pleased to state—
(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway have proposed to erect a bridge over the Brahmaputra near the Amingaon station ?
(*b*) If so, do Government propose to incorporate in the design of the bridge for a road-way for at least light cars and carts ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

876. (*a*) and (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to questions 360-363 asked at the current session of the Assembly by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar, M.L.A.

Suspension of the Pension of Dr. H. K. Das

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

877. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) When the pension of Dr. H. K. Das was suspended and for what reasons ?

(*b*) What objection, if any, is there in revising the order of suspension of the pension ?

(*c*) The rule under which the pension was suspended ?

(*d*) Whether there is any rule under which the suspended pension may not be restored ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

877. (*a*)—Since May 1931—for the reason that, despite two previous warnings, Dr. Das gave active support to or advocacy of movements which aimed at the subversion of Government established by law in British India.

(*b*)—The pensioner is at liberty to submit an application to Government through the proper channel (*i.e.*, the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner). It will then be considered on its merits.

(*c*)—Under Article 351 of the Civil Service Regulations.

(*d*)—None.

Permits to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

878 Will Government be pleased to give the names of persons who have been given permits to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road ?

(*a*) Is it a fact that they have been given permits to run lorries for 1937 and 1938 ?

(*b*) Will Government please state the reasons why permits have been given for two years ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a Marwari runs the Lorry for which permits have been given to Rai Sahib Sonadhar Das who is a pensioner and not a trader ?

(*d*)(*i*) Is it a fact that a young Khasi woman has been given permit to run lorry on the Gauhati-Shillong Road ?

(*ii*) Is Government aware that she is not a trader ?

(*e*)(*i*) Will Government state the nature of her trade ?

(*ii*) Is it a fact Hari Ram Goenka runs the Lorry for which permit has been given to her ?

(*f*) Did Government make any enquiry before the permit was given to her, whether she was a desirable and deserving person ?

(*g*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons that led them to give the permit to her ?

(*h*) Is it a fact that some Hon'ble Members of the Cabinet were candidates for permits to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road and that they did not get such permits ?

(*i*) Will Government be pleased to give reasons which induced them to give permits to Shillong Hydro-Electric Limited ?

879. Will Government be pleased to state how many permits have been given for lorries and passenger buses to be run on the Sylhet-Shillong Road, and the names of persons or companies or associations who have received permits to run such lorries or buses together with the numbers against each, and the dates when the permits were given ?

880. Will Government be pleased to give the date on which permission was given to the United Fruit Company, Limited ?

881.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what fee was offered by each tenderer at the time of the tender ?

(*b*) What permit fee was offered by the United Fruit Company, Limited, when tenders were invited and for what fee the Fruit Company have been given permits to run lorries and buses on the Sylhet-Shillong Road ?

882. Is it a fact that one Hon'ble Member of the Cabinet is interested in the United Fruit Company, Limited ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

878.—A statement showing the names of ordinary permit holders is placed on the Library Table.

(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Government considered it desirable to grant permit for a longer period than one year as they thought no permit holder could realise a reasonable portion of the investment in such a short time, and failure to get permit next year would land the permit holders into gross loss as the heavy lorries used on the road are not allowed to run on any other road in the Province.

(*c*)—Government have no information.

(*d*)(*i*)—Yes.

(*d*) (*ii*) and (*e*) (*i*)—From her application it appeared that she was carrying on business in the potato and other miscellaneous export trade.

(*e*) (*ii*)—Government have no information.

(*f*)—All applications for permit are submitted through the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the applicant was considered suitable for having a permit.

(*g*)—She was selected from among other as suitable, being a *bona fide* Khasi and trader.

(*h*)—One Hon'ble Member of the present Ministry unsuccessfully applied for a permit.

(*i*)—Selected as being a large Company in Shillong constantly needing a lorry for their own work.

879.—A statement containing the information is placed on the Library Table.

880.—On the 28th April 1937.

881.(*a*)—Rs.4,000 for goods vehicle and Rs.3,000 for passenger *cum* light goods vehicles is the accepted permit fee.

(*b*)—An annual fee of Rs.2,500 for each passenger *cum* goods vehicle and Rs.3,000 for each goods vehicle. One permit for a passenger *cum* goods vehicle has been granted on payment of an annual fee of Rs 3,000.

882.—Yes, as a share-holder.

Representation of various communities in the offices of the Director of Public Instruction and Divisional Inspectors of Schools

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

883. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of appointments with the percentage of representation of various communities in the offices of the Director of Public Instruction and the clerical establishments under the Divisional Inspectors of Schools ?

(*b*) The number of new appointments made therein during the years 1934, 1935 and 1936 showing their distribution among the different communities ?

(*c*) The number of temporary appointments made in these offices during the years 1934, 1935 and 1936 showing their distribution among the different communities ?

(*d*) Whether in any of the offices, any post, temporary or permanent previously held by Muhammadans was filled by non-Muhammadans ?

(*e*) Whether in any of these offices any permanent vacancies will occur in near future ?

(*f*) If so, how many and which community will be entitled to them ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

883. (*a*)—Three statements are laid on the table.

Ministerial establishment—Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 30	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	.....	...
2. Muslims	31	9·3	10(*a*)
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	26	7·8	9
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	9	2·7	5
5. Scheduled castes ...	6	1·8	1
6. Domiciled Hindus ...	...	.....	...
7. Tribal people, hills and plains.	16	4·8	4
8. Others	12	3·6	1
			30

(*a*) Inclusive of 2 Muhammadans transferred to some other departments holding lien on their substantive appointments.

Clerical establishments under the Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 41	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	.....	...
2. Muslims	46	18·86	17+2 temporary.
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6)·	...	.....	...
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	20	8·2	16+1 temporary.
5. Scheduled castes ...	10	4·1	1+2 temporary.
6. Domiciled Hindus ...	...	.....	...
7. Tribal people, hills and plains.	15	6·15	2
8. Others	9	3·69	...
			36+5 temporary.

Clerical establishments under the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 44	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	.....	...
2. Muslims	19	8·36	8
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	46	20·24	32
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	...	.....	...
5. Scheduled castes ...	4	1·76	2
6. Domiciled Hindus ...	...	.....	...
7. Tribal people, hills and plains.	16	7·04	2
8. Others	15	6·6	...
			44

(*b*)—Office of the Director of Public Instruction ... 7

Muhammadans	1
Hindus, Assam Valley	1
Hindus, Surma Valley	1
Scheduled caste	1+1
Tribal	1+1
	5+2 (*a*)

(*a*) Posts are temporary at present but are likely to be made permanent eventually.

Establishments under Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley 2

Muhammadan	1
Scheduled caste	1
	2

Establishment under Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle 5

Muhammadans	2
Hindus, Assam Valley	2
Tribal	1
	5

(*c*)—1.Office of the Director of Public Instruction ... 16

Muslims	5
Hindus, Surma Valley	4
Tribals	7
	16

Establishments under Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley 46

Muslims	22
Hindus	20
Scheduled caste	2
Tribal	2
	46

3. Establishments under Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle 6

Hindus	5
Scheduled caste	1
	6

(*d*)—Yes. In making sudden temporary appointments communal representation cannot always be considered in the interest of office work, but every endeavour is made to avoid deviation from Government orders on the subject.

(*e*)—No permanent vacancies are likely to occur before March 1938.

(*f*)—When a vacancy occurs it will be filled with due regard to communal representation.

Eradication of water hyacinth

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

884. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the following—
(*a*) whether Government ever attempted to trace the origin of water hyacinth in this province ?
(*b*) If so, when, and with what conclusion ?
(*c*) If not, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to do the same ?

885. (*a*) Have Government ever made a comprehensive survey of this province as a whole in respect of water hyacinth in order to ascertain the following—

(*i*) Proportion of paddy lands which become incapable of yielding paddy on account of the pest ?
(*ii*) Total loss of paddy, thereby ?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister please state the same ?

(*c*) If not, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps on those lines ?

886. Has the Hon'ble Minister in his possession a comprehensive report from the Subdivisional Officer of Habiganj on the eradication of water hyacinth in that Subdivision for the last two years ?

(*a*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister place the same on each member's table for information ?

(*b*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister call for one such, and place the same on each member's table for information ?

887. Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to rid the province of the water hyacinth pest ?

(*a*) If so, has he devised ways and means for the same ?

(*b*) If not, does he propose to devise ways and means for the same ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

884. (*a*) and (*b*)—A special officer appointed by the Bengal Government made an exhaustive enquiry into the whole question in 1926. It appears from his report that plants were originally taken out from the Botanical gardens, Calcutta, for the sake of their flowers and that the pest spread into Assam from Bengal.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

885. (*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—The reply is in the negative.

886 and 887.—A reference is invited to the reply given to question No.42 asked by Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri at this session. Government are not in possession of a comprehensive report from the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, but the extract quoted in the reply referred to above gives the gist of the measures taken.

Outstanding amount of Agricultural loans in both the Valleys

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

888. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please give the following information—

(1) Amount of agricultural loans outstanding in each of the two valleys ?

(2) Amount outstanding in each of the subdivisions of the districts of Sylhet and Cachar ?

(3) Amounts written off, if any, in each of the two valleys during the current year ?

(4) Whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to write off the outstanding, if any, in the province ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

888.(1)—Assam Valley—Rs.2,12,148.
Surma Valley—Rs.4,80,151.

(2)—The information has been called for.

(3)—An amount of Rs.30,000 for this purpose was only recently allotted to the Commissioner, Surma Valley Division. Information is not available how much of this has been utilised as yet.

(4)—The question will be considered towards the end of the period for which collection of agricultural loans has been suspended.

Representation of different communities in Government services

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

889. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge give the following information—

(*a*) Total number of officers and employees in each of the different branches and grades of Government services, belonging to each of the subdivisions of the district of Sylhet and also stating the same by communities, in each case ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

889. (*a*)—Government regret they are not in a position to supply the information which would involve a vast expenditure of time and labour.

Grants for communications to all Local Boards in Assam

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

890. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The distance in miles of (1) metalled roads and (2) shingled roads maintained by each of the Local Board in Assam ?

(*b*) The amount of annual non-recurring and recurring grants for those roads for the last 3 years ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

890. (*a*) and (*b*)—A statement is laid on the table. The figures for grants for communication refer however to all roads. No separate grants are made for metalled and shingled roads.

Names of Local Boards	Metalled road in miles as on 31st March 1936	Shingled road in miles as on 31st March 1936	Grants for communication for 1934-35		Grants for communication for 1935-36		Grants for communication for 1936-37		Remarks
			Non-recurring	Recurring	Non-recurring	Recurring	Non-recurring	Recurring	
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Silchar	29·11	21·62	13,800	10,934	13,000	10,934	12,400	3,369	
Hailakandi	9·18	1·52	4,124	4,843	3,837	4,843	3,360	3,191	
North Sylhet	1·00	..	17,800 (*a*)	2,783	13,000	2,783	12,350	2,783 (*a*)	Including a special grant of Rs.4,000 for flood damage repairs.
Karimganj	0·50	..	13,200	4,661	13,000	4,661	12,350	2,755	
South Sylhet	0·27	0·34	15,000	4,501	13,450	4,501	12,400	4,501	
Habiganj		..	13,000	..	12,200	..	11,638	..	
Sunamganj	..	..	11,000	..	10,800	..	10,500	..	
Dhubri	..	5·38	23,150	26,617	23,610	26,617	24,300	26,617	
Goalpara	..	..	14,100	..	14,375	..	14,800	..	
Gauhati	8·28	1·38	25,489	..	27,000	..	27,260	..	
Barpeta	..	..	9,400	..	9,585	..	9,680	..	
Tezpur	2·0	..	17,600	850	17,950	850	18,485	850	
Mangaldai	..	..	5,700	4,590	5,810	4,590	5,975	4,590	
Nowgong	6·42	7·77	60,800 (*b*)	..	49,115 (*c*)	..	16,595	.. (*b*)	Including a special grant of Rs.45,000 for flood damage repairs.
								(*c*)	Including Rs.13,000 for flood damage repairs.
Sibsagar	3·50	..	16,600	450	16,930	450	17,435	450	
Jorhat	7·80	4·20	16,300	452	16,625	452	16,785	452	
Golaghat	..	14·50	10,950	170	11,164	170	11,275	170	
Dibrugarh	37·76	13·84	21,600	9,404	22,030	9,404	22,685	9,404	
North Lakhimpur	..	..	6,900	..	7,030	..	7,240	..	

Total number of appeals preferred before the Commissioner against the order of Deputy Commissioners in the last 3 years

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

891. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state the total number of appeals preferred before the Commissioner against the orders of the Deputy Commissioners in last 3 years ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) How many of them were dismissed ?

(*ii*) How many of them were disposed of with the remarks "Decline to interfere" ?

(*iii*) How many of them were allowed during the last 3 years ?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state the total number of appeals preferred against orders of the Commissioners before His Excellency the Governor in the last 3 years ?

(*d*) How many of those were disposed of in the manner stated above ?

892. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of warrants of attachment of moveables issued ?

(*b*) The number of land sale measure taken in each of the sub-divisions of Assam Valley and Cachar in the last 3 years ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

891. (*a*) to (*d*)—The amount of labour and time that would be involved in the compilation of these statistics which Government do not consider to be of any permanent public interest, would be incommensurate with the result.

892. (*a*) and (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to the question No.699(3) asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at this session of the Assembly.

Increment of grant to the Barpeta Dispensary for the free treatment of Government officers and their family

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

893. Do Government propose to increase the grant for the free treatment of the Government officers and their family members to the extent of Rs.1,200 (twelve hundred) per annum to the Barpeta Sadar Dispensary ?

894. Do Government propose to sanction a lady doctor for the Barpeta Sadar dispensary ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

893.—No.

894.—No.

Provision of grant for the Barpeta Dispensary

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

895. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*i*) Whether owing to insufficiency of accommodation in the indoor patients' wards at the Barpeta Dispensary many prospective indoor patients from villages have to stay at the plinth of the verandah for days together ?

(*ii*) Whether the old outdoor dispensary block require reconstruction with sufficient accommodation owing to rapid and abnormal increase of outdoor patients ?

(*iii*) Whether many Government high officials including a Governor of the Province saw to these needs and some even suggested special Government grant for the purpose ?

(*iv*) Whether owing to paucity of fund, the Barpeta Local Board has been unable to meet these pressing needs ?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the urgency of the matter and make provision for special grant for the purpose ?

896. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether there is any direct annual medical grant from the Government to the Barpeta Dispensary for treatment of Government servants and their family members at Barpeta ?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister please state the amounts of such grants, year by year, for the last ten years ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the number of Government servants and their family members has in recent years increased by several times in Barpeta ?

(*d*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to provide a bigger amount of grant henceforward ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

895. (*a*) (*i*)—Accommodation is available for 22 indoor patients. The daily average number of indoor patients treated during the years 1934, 1935 and 1936 were 17·89, 16·69 and 14·20 respectively. These figures do not show that there is insufficiency of accommodation.

(*ii*)—The accommodation is somewhat cramped but there is no special urgency for reconstructing the block.

(*iii*)—Yes, but it does not appear that any of the inspecting officers suggested a special Government grant for the purpose.

(*iv*)—Government have no information. It may be that the Board did not consider the needs to be pressing.

(*b*)—Maintenance of dispensaries is a legitimate charge on local bodies — the Barpeta Local Board should take the initiative.

896. (*a*)—Yes, for Government servants only. The family members of the Government servants are not entitled to free medical treatment.

(*b*)—Rupees 200 a year.

(*c*)—Government are not aware that there has been any great influx of Government servants into Barpeta.

(*d*)—No.

Bongalmora grazing Reserve

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

897. (*a*) Is there any grazing reserve called Bongalmora on the banks of the Dikrong river in the Laluk Mauza ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to open the same for the raiyots of Ahotguri (Golaghat), whose lands have been eroded by the Brahmaputra ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

897. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—No. It is required for professional graziers and there is ample waste land available in adjacent mauzas for cultivation. Moreover, steps have been taken by the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar to provide land for the Ahotguri sufferers elsewhere in the Sibsagar district.

Newspaper article *re* detention at Kulpi of one Babu Behari Lal.

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

898. Has the attention of Government of Assam been drawn to the letter published in the "Janasakti" of Sylhet dated the 23rd June 1937, regarding the detention at Kulpi in the 24-Parganas by the Government of Bengal of one Babu Behari Lal Datta, son of Babu Nabin Chandra Datta of village Gandargarh within the jurisdiction of Kulaura police station in the district of Sylhet, who, according to the letter, is said to have been a college student at Faridpur before arrest ?

899. Will Government of Assam be pleased to state the circumstances under which the said Babu Behari Lal Datta was interned in Bengal as alleged in the said letter, and for how long he has been an internee, and, under which law ?

900. Do Government of Assam propose to enquire about the ill health of the said internee as reported in the said letter, and, inform the Assembly of the present state of his health ?

901. Do Government of Assam propose to obtain the opinion of the Government of Bengal about the immediate release of the said internee ?

902. Do Government of Assam propose to take steps for the release of the said internee, and, if not, to state the reasons of the same ?

903. Will Government of Assam be pleased to state—

(*a*) if according to the information at their disposal at present there are any more persons belonging to the province of Assam detained as internees outside the province, giving their names as well as the names of the provinces in which and the Government by which they have been interned ?

(*b*) If the reply is in the negative, do Government of Assam propose to consult other provincial Governments about the names and residences of persons of this province, if any, interned there, and the circumstances leading to their internment ?

(*c*) And, if not, why not ?

904. Will Government of Assam be pleased to state the name of the political internees still under detention within the province of Assam, and, if Government are agreeable to release them with or without any condition ? If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

898.—Yes.

899.—He was arrested under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act on 13th May 1935 while a student of the Rajendra College, Faridpur. He appears to have been in internment since that date.

900.—Yes. Enquiries are being made.

901.—Yes. The Government of Bengal are being consulted.

902.—This Government are not in a position to dictate a course of action to the Government of Bengal, but the views of the latter are being obtained.

903 (*a*).—A statement is placed on the table. This statement is based on available information but cannot, however, be guaranteed to be accurate

Statement showing the names and addresses of persons belonging to the Province of Assam detained as internees outside the province

Serial No.	Name	Parentage	Home address	Place of internment	By which Government interned
1	Babu Haripada Datta.	Babu Brajendra Chandra Datta.	Vill.—Kesabpur, P. S. Jagannathpur, Dt. Sylhet.	Vill.—Taldangra, Bankura, Bengal.	Government of Bengal.
2	Babu Jitendra Nath Moitra.	Late Babu Jagannath Moitra.	Vill.—Baidyajnati, P. S. Maulvibazar, Sylhet.	Hijli Detention Camp.	Ditto.
3	Babu Kumud Chandra Bhattacharjee.	Babu Padmalochan Bhattacharjee.	Vill.—Isakpur, P. S. Jagannathpur, Sylhet.	Bhater Detention Camp, Bengal.	Ditto.
4	Babu Behari Lal Datta.	Babu Nabin Chandra Datta.	Vill.—Gandargarh, P. S. Kulaura, Sylhet.	Kulpi, 24-Parganas.	Ditto.
	Residents of other provinces but who lived for sometimes in Assam				
1	Babu Hiranya Kanta Basu.	Late Babu Rajani Kanta Basu.	Vill.—Gheor, P. S. Manikganj, Dacca and Dhubri Town, Goalpara.	Somewhere in Bengal.	Government of Bengal.
2	Babu Tara Kishore Bardhan.	Babu Rudra Kishore Bardhan.	Vill.—Kaitola, Dt. Tippera and Hailakandi, Cachar.	Cox's Bazar, Chittagong.	Ditto.

1596

(*b*) and (*c*)—Enquiries will be made in order to obtain accurate information.

904.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No.193(*c*) and (*d*) asked by Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy at this session of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Reservation of appointments in various Government Departments for the depressed classes

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS asked :

905.(*a*) Is it a fact that many qualified young men of the Kaiborta community are as yet unemployed ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to provide them with employment as early as possible as a special case in preference to other communities ?

906.(*a*) Has Government—

(*i*) provided any special amount in the Budget for the advance of education of the depressed classes as laid down in the Poona Pact ; and also

(*ii*) reserved appointments in the various departments of the State for the depressed classes as laid down in that Pact ?

907.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the appointments that are held by the depressed classes caste by caste in the various departments, the date of appointment, the length of service and the amount of pay ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to accept in future the claims of the Kaiborta community which forms the large bulk of the more backward population of the scheduled castes of the Assam Valley for separate allocation in making appointment to the services of the province including subordinate branches ?

908.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether Government have prepared or are considering any proposals in regard to the manner in which appointments and posts in future are to be allocated as between the various communities in the province ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement on the prevailing principles and proportions of such allocation hitherto followed by the Local Government in the past together with a list of the communities entitled to separate consideration thereunder ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

905.(*a*)—Government have no information regarding the extent of unemployment among the Kaibarta community.

(*b*)—It is the policy of Government to give adequate representation in Government service to the scheduled castes. The Kaibarta community is only one of many scheduled castes and cannot be given special preference over the other scheduled castes.

906.(*a*)(*i*)—At present the scheduled castes are considered backward classes in the Educational Department's Rules and Orders and can compete for the various special scholarships available for such classes. In addition, there are two Middle Vernacular and two Middle English scholarships available for boys of the scheduled castes.

(*ii*)—No. The scheduled castes are entitled to posts on a population basis.

907.(*a*)—Government do not propose to collect figures caste by caste as it would involve a vast amount of labour incommensurate with the results.

(*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question 905(*b*).

908.(*a*)—Yes. The matter is under consideration.

(*b*)—A copy of Circular No.1-A.P., dated the 2nd December 1935, is placed on the Library table for the information of hon. members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 21st August 1937)

Terms and tenures of the fee-simple grants and the special revenue paying leases

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

909. Will Government be pleased to state the total acreage of fee-simple grants (*i*) Half or special revenue paying lands, (*ii*) Revenue paying lands—enjoyed by (*a*) European and (*b*) Indian tea gardens separately ?

910. What are the terms and tenures of the fee-simple grants and special revenue paying leases ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

909.—The information is not available in the Secretariat and its compilation in the districts would involve an amount of labour incommensurate with the results.

910.—The hon. member is referred to pages vi-viii of the Introduction to the Land Revenue Manual which gives the history as well as the terms of settlement of land for special cultivation.

Joint constitution of a Public Service Commission for Assam and Bengal

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

911. Is it a fact that several provinces in India have constituted their Public Service Commissions jointly with other neighbouring provinces for the sake of economy ?

912. Is it a fact that there was a proposal to constitute a joint Public Service Commission for Assam and Bengal ?

(*a*) If so, why the proposal fell through ?

913. Will Government be pleased to state if the members of the Public Service Commission are appointed on communal grounds ?

(*a*) If not, what is the basis ?

914. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The salaries fixed for the President of the Assam Public Service Commission and also that of the Member of the Assam Revenue Tribunal ?

(*b*) Why is there such a difference ?

(*c*) Is it for the heavier and most arduous nature of duties of the latter ?

(*d*) What are the qualifications necessary for the above services ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

911.—Government are aware of the existence of joint Commissions for some provinces. They have no information as to whether the provinces have combined solely for the sake of economy.

912.—Yes.

(*a*)—On financial and administrative grounds.

913.—No.

(*a*)—The hon. member is referred to section 265(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the proviso thereunder.

914.(*a*)—Rupees 1,750 per mensem and Rs.3,500 per mensem respectively.

(*b*)&(*c*)—Because of the nature of the duties involved. At present the difference is modified by the fact that the Chairman, Assam Public Service Commission, is also in receipt of his pension.

(*d*)—The hon. member is referred to sections 265(1) and 296(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935. No specific qualifications are laid down.

Deputy Director of Live-stock

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked:

915. Is it a fact that the Deputy Director of Live-stock is also a Deputy Director of Agriculture ?

916. Is it a fact that the Live-stock is more intimately connected with Veterinary Department than with the Agricultural Department ?

917. Is it a fact that the Veterinary Officers are always to look after the live-stocks ?

(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons that led the Government to place the Live-stock Department under the Agricultural Department ?

918. Is it a fact that the post of the Deputy Superintendent of Veterinary Department has been kept in abeyance for a long time ?

919. Will Government consider the desirability of filling up the post now and placing the Live-stock Department under him ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

915.—His official designation is Deputy Director of Agriculture (Live-stock).

916.—That is a matter on which two views are possible. The Royal Commission on Agriculture held that the control of Live-stock improvement should be entrusted to the Agricultural Department.

917.—The main function of the Veterinary Department is the treatment and cure of animal diseases. As regards (*a*) see the answer to 916 above.

918.—Yes.

919.—The question of strengthening the staff of the Veterinary Department is under consideration. As regards the second part of the question Government have decided not to amalgamate the Live-stock Branch of the Agricultural Department with the Veterinary Department but to maintain the existing position.

Stoppage of free supply of the Departmental Reports and other Government Publications to the recognised Public Libraries

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

920.(*a*) Is it a fact that the free supply of the Departmental reports and other Government publications to the recognised public libraries in Assam has been stopped ? (*b*) If so, from when and what is the reason ?

921. In view of the utility of the knowledge of the working of the various Departments of the Government of Assam among the educated people in general of the Province will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of reintroducing the practice of free supply of the Reports to the public libraries in the province ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

920.(*a*) and (*b*)—Yes. Owing to the pressing need for economy, the names of some recipients of Departmental Reports and other publications were removed in 1931 from some of the distribution lists.

921. Applications have been received from time to time for the reintroduction of free supplies and each case considered on its merits. Government propose to deal with such applications in the same way in future.

Nowgong-Dhing Road

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

922. Will Government be pleased to state which mauzas the Nowgong Dhing Road passes through ?

923. Are Government aware that the aforesaid road is the only road connecting the town with the Chapari mauzas, *viz.*, Bardowa, Dhing, Laharighat, Bokani and some part of Kachamari and Juria ?

924. Are Government aware that Batadrawa Dham the birth place of Mahapurush Sri Sri Sankar Dev, which is one of the most important Shrines in the province is on this road ?

925. Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the road was abandoned ?

926. Is it a fact that after its abandonment by the Public Works Department the road has been progressively deteriorating inspite of the Local Board taking it over ?

927. Is it a fact that the road was abandoned in the interests of the Senchua-Mairabari Railway line ?

928. Will Government be pleased to state the length of the road and the number of ferry ghats on it ?

(*a*) whether tolls are charged at every ferry ghat ?

(*b*) whether this tends to discourage traffic on the road ?

929. Are Government aware that the abandonment of the road has caused very great hardship—

(*a*) on agriculturists who are compelled to sell their produces at a lesser price for difficulties in transport ?

(*b*) on traders and the pilgrims visiting the Batadrawa Shrine ?

930. Will Government consider the desirability of taking over the road by the Public Works Department in view of its great importance and the acute distress caused by its abandonment ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

922.—The Nowgong Dhing road passes through the following mauzas—(1) Town (2) Kachamari, (3) Hatichong (4) Batadrawa and (5) Dhing.

923.—Yes. It is the only main road.

924.—Yes.

925.—The road was abandoned by the Public Works Department as it was not of provincial importance owing to the opening of Senchua-Mairabari Railway.

926.—Yes.

927.—The reply is in the negative.

928.—The length of the road is 17·25 miles and there are 9 ferry ghats on it.

(*a*)—Ferry tolls are realised at four out of these nine ghats.

(*b*)—It may have some adverse effect on both vehicular and foot traffic.

929.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The hardship is not great because people generally go to the Satra in the month of *Magh* when the road is passable.

930.—Not at present. There are many more important roads of greater provincial interest which Public Works Department could take over first with greater advantage to the province as a whole.

Realisation of boat hire from litigant public in connection with serving of processes in civil suits in Nowgong

SRIJUT DHIRSINGH DEURI asked:

931.(*a*) Is it a fact that in the case of processes issued in connection with civil suits boat hire is being realised from the litigant public in some of the mauzas in the district of Nowgong ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that boat hire is realised even if the process server has no occasion to make use of any boat or ferry ?

(*c*) Have Government made any special ferry arrangements for these process servers ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Government officers or servants while on public duty are exempted from paying any toll or fee while crossing a ferry or ghat ?

(*e*) If so, do Government in the interests of the public propose to extend the same concession to the process servers ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

931.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes, boat hire is realised in accordance with rule 685 of the High Court's Civil Rules and Orders, Volume I, for localities which are not ordinarily accessible except by boat, and the process-servers make their own arrangements for access to these localities. It is not feasible to make exceptions in individual cases. The extra rate charged for boat hire is fixed so as to cover the total extra cost to Government and no more.

(*c*) and (*d*)—No. Process-servers are crossed free over recognised ferries like other Government servants on duty.

(*e*)—Does not arise.

Number of Muhammadan and non-Muhammadan students in Government High Schools, in Assam

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked:

932. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state the number of (*i*) Muhammadan and (*ii*) Non-Muhammadan students in each of the Government High Schools of Assam on 31st March, 1937, and the number of free and half free-studentships granted in each of the above schools to (*i*) and (*ii*) ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

932.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muhammadan and non-Muhammadan students in each of the Government High Schools of Assam on the 31st March 1937 and the number of free and half free-studentships granted to them

Serial No.	Name of School.	Muhammadan enrolment	Non-Muhammadan enrolment	No. enjoying free-studentships		No. enjoying half free-studentships		Remarks
				Muhammadan	Non-Muhammadan	Muhammadan	Non-Muhammadan	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Government High School, Silchar ..	189	397	82	53	33	92	
2	Ditto Hailakandi	208	243	68	49	53	56	
3	Ditto Karimganj	202	239	28	26	42	41	
4	Ditto Maulvibazar	147	267	22	9	22	21	
5	Ditto Habiganj ..	105	418	40	20	8	10	
6	Ditto Sunamganj	111	284	27	12	6	12	
7	Ditto Sylhet ..	376	241	38	26	21	10	
8	Ditto Shillong ..	41	573	11	6	..	50	
9	Ditto Dhubri ..	178	332	24	12	26	23	
10	Ditto Goalpara ..	70	227	24	27	9	50	
11	Ditto Barpeta ..	56	267	19	10	8	57	
12	Ditto Gauhati ..	109	397	20	53	14	67	
13	Ditto Tezpur ..	32	273	11	11	..	10	
14	Ditto Mangaldai..	71	231	21	15	6	8	
15	Ditto Nowgong ..	94	371	38	53	11	61	
16	Ditto Golaghat ..	56	380	31	45	4	70	
17	Ditto Sibsagar ..	109	353	32	38	15	44	
18	Ditto Jorhat ..	108	440	39	27	..	12	
19	Ditto Dibrugarh ..	96	451	36	47	10	68	
20	Ditto North Lakhimpur.	88	366	31	16	10	36	
21	Government Girls' High School, Dibrugarh.	57	300	10	20	11	51	
22	Ditto Sylhet ..	17	395	5	21	..	..	

Prosecution of Maulavi Yunusur Rahman Choudhury of village Ujirpur, Police Station Nabiganj, Sylhet

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

933. Is it a fact that Maulavi Yunusur Rahman Choudhury of village Ujirpur, Police Station Nabiganj, district Sylhet, was prosecuted for committing dacoity in the house of his tenant and that after his acquittal in the sessions trial on the unanimous verdict of the special jurors, the Government of Assam recommended to the Legal Remembrancer of Bengal to prefer an appeal ? If so, will Government be pleased to place on the table the reply of the Legal Remembrancer, Bengal, on the subject ?

934. Is it a fact that in the sessions court Mr. R. F. Lodge, the then Sessions Judge, summoned, as usual, ordinary jurors from the list of jurors maintained for the purpose but during his absence, at the instance, of the Government Pleader the Additional Sessions Judge altered the list, and summoned afresh the special jurors ?

935. Is it a fact that during the police investigation, a representation was made to the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Bartley, to the effect that as the local officers were gathering evidence by threat and coercion he should go personally to the spot ?

936. Do Government propose to make a public inquiry about the conduct of the investigating police officers ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

933.—Yes. Government are not prepared to lay an unpublished official record on the table.

934.—Yes, after the case had been transferred to the Additional Sessions Judge's file.

935.—To the late Mr. Crace and not to Mr. Bartley.

936.—Government do not consider such an enquiry necessary.

Representation of Muhammadans in Government services

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

937. Will the Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) What would be the actual representation of the Mussalmans of Assam in Government service on population basis in terms of percentage ?

(*b*) Whether the Mussalmans are under represented in Government service ?

(*c*) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of adopting a policy giving preference to the Mussalman candidates until the percentage which they are entitled to is reached ?

(*d*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

937.(*a*)—Three statements are laid on the Library table for the hon. member's information. These do not include menial posts, which are not filled on a communal basis.

(*b*).—They are under-represented in some departments and over-represented in others.

(*c*).—Government consider that the existing rules are sufficient to secure due representation to the Muslims.

(*d*).—Does not arise.

Sub-Inspectors of Schools and B.T. and L.T. Teachers of Government High Schools

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA asked :—

938. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state —

(*a*) Whether Sub-Inspectors of Schools and B.T. and L.T. Teachers of Government High Schools belong to the same class of the Assam School Service and are of the same status and rank for all intents and purposes ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that Sub-Inspectors of Class III of Assam School Service are promoted to be Deputy Inspectors in Class I superseding Assistant Head Masters in Class II and Assistant Masters in Class III, senior to them in pay, length of service and sometimes in educational qualifications ?

(*c*) If Government are aware that there is the complaint that this policy affords double promotion to Sub-Inspectors and causes injustice to Assistant Head Masters of Class II and senior teachers of Class III ?

(*d*) If it is a fact that under-graduate Sub-Inspectors of Class III are allowed to be promoted to be Deputy Inspectors in Class I, while L.T. and failed B.T. Teachers of Class III are not allowed to become Assistant Head Masters even in Class II ?

(*e*) If so, will Government be pleased to state reason for such invidious distinction amongst officers of the same service ?

(*f*) If it is a fact that there are Deputy Inspectors who began their careers as Assistant Masters and could not have been appointed even as Assistant Head Masters in Class II by this time, had they continued in the teaching line ?

(*g*) If it is a fact that such officers were transferred to the Sub-Inspectorate in Class III and allowed double promotion to Class I superseding the claims of many teachers senior to them and better qualified ?

(*h*) If there is any bar to senior, experienced and qualified Assistant teachers and Assistant Masters becoming Deputy Inspector of schools ?

(*i*) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reason why better qualified and senior Assistant Teachers and Assistant Head Masters are allowed to be superseded in some cases by less qualified and less experienced Sub-Inspectors ?

(*j*) Whether Professors of Colleges are allowed to become Inspectors, Principals of Colleges and again Principals, Director of Public Instruction ?

(*k*) What is the principle followed in transferring officers from the teaching to the Inspecting line and *vice versa* ?

(*l*) If it is a fact that some senior B.T. teachers were eager to be transferred to the Inspecting line when a vacancy occurred owing to the retirement of a Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Surma Valley but that their claims were superseded ? Will Government please state the names of such teachers ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

938. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*)—The hon. member is referred to the replies to similar questions asked by Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri at this session of the Assembly.

(*d*)—Meritorious under-graduate Inspectors may be promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspectors. Promotion to Class II depends on—

(1) Administrative ability.
(2) Power of maintaining discipline.
(3) Academic qualifications.
(4) Among officers with these qualifications, seniority.

(*e*)—The duties of Deputy Inspectors and Headmasters of High Schools are of a different nature.

The former only deal with schools of Middle and Primary Standard in which a high standard of education is not essential but rather a knowledge of methods of teaching and organising ability.

The latter have under their control teachers of high educational qualifications and generally Government do not consider it advisable to place a man who has not taken a degree in a position of authority over such teachers.

(*f*)—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part is too suppositious to permit of a reply.

(*g*)—Some officers were promoted direct from Class III to Class I thus superseding officers senior to them though possibly not better qualified.

(*h*) and (*i*)—*See* the reply to (*k*).

(*j*)—Yes.

(*k*)—It is difficult for an officer who has put in a number of years in the sedentary work of a teacher to take up the arduous touring of an Inspecting officer.

For that reason transfers from the teaching staff to the Inspecting staff are usually made early in an officer's service, not when he would be due for promotion to Class II. Teachers found fit for inspecting work are transferred to the Inspectorate and Sub-Inspectors who are unable to cope with the work are transferred to the teaching staff.

(*l*)—There was one case of this nature. The Government at that time considered that the transfer would affect the prospects of the Senior Sub-Inspectors. Government are not prepared to state the name of the teacher in question.

Naduar High School in Darrang District

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

939. Is it a fact that the Naduar High School is the only school in the Muffasil of the Darrang district ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

939.—Yes.

Award of Scholarships to students of Silchar Normal School

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

940. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of scholarships awarded to the students of the Normal School, Silchar, in the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 ?

(*b*) How many of them were awarded to the Muhammadans ?

(*c*) How many applications for admission from Muhammadan boys were received by the Superintendent of the School in these three years and how many of the Muhammadan applicants were actually called for interview ?

(*d*) Whether Government propose to reserve adequate number of scholarships for Muhammadan boys seeking admission in the Silchar Normal School in future ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

940. (*a*)—1935 27
1936 32
1937 26
(*b*)—1935 7
1936 8
1937 8

(*c*)—The number of applications received from Muhammadan boys and the number called for interview were respectively—

1935 ... ... 24 and 23.
1936 ... ... 45 and 15.
1937 ... ... 33 and 20.

(*d*)—The matter will be considered by Government.

Superintendents of Hostels attached to Schools

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

941. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state why the Superintendents of hostels attached to schools and colleges are allowed to continue to hold charge of hostels for years together ?

(*b*) Is the Government prepared to act upon the view that the same persons holding such offices for long, become lethargic and perfunctory in the discharge of their duties ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to abolish the present system of allowing their officers to continue as Superintendents for an unlimited period of time ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to provide for family quarters for Hostel Superintendents where such family quarters do not exist ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

941. (*a*)—If they do their duties satisfactorily there is no reason for change.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—No.

(*d*)—Yes, when funds permit.

Officers of Class II of the Assam School Service

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked:

942. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether officers of Class II of the Assam School Service are superior in cadre and status to Sub-Inspectors of Schools who are all of Class III of the same service ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state why Sub-Inspectors of Schools when promoted, are raised straight away to Class I in supersession of the claims of officers of Class II ?

943.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state why the Assistant Head Masters, who are officers of Class II, are not offered the posts of Deputy Inspectors in filling up permanent vacancies ?

(*b*) Whether such supersession of officers of Class II by officers of Class III of the same service is complained against as an act of injustice and unfairness ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to do away with the present procedure of appointing Deputy Inspectors, ignoring the claims of officers of Class II ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

942.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Vacancies in Deputy Inspectorship are as a rule filled by the promotion of Sub-Inspectors. Hence the question of the supersession of Class II officers who are Assistant Headmasters, does not arise.

943.(*a*)—Because they have no experience of inspection work, and by the time such promotion may be due, they are already too old to take to touring work.

(*b*)– The question of supersession does not arise ; but certain representations on the matter have been made.

(*c*)—Government will consider the matter.

Director of Public Instruction's tour during the years from 1930 to 1937

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

944. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) how many times the Director of Public Instruction was away from Shillong on tour during the financial years from 1930 to 1937, (*b*) objects of tour in each case, (*c*) total number of days with dates on tour, (*d*) number of days occupied for journey, (*e*) number of days taking for discharge of duties, (*f*) the subdivisions visited in each such trip, (*g*) number of days halted in each subdivision with actual dates, (*h*) the names of schools visited, (*i*) amounts drawn on account of halting, (*j*) train fare and (*k*) mileage, with totals of the columns (*i*)(*j*)(*k*)?

945. Is it a fact that the Heads of Departments of the Government should be on tour at least five months in the year, of which a month should be during the period of rains ?

946. Will Government be pleased to state who is the Head of the Education Department ?

947. If the answer to question 945 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the Head of the Education Department duly discharges his duties as provided for in the rules ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

944.—No. The compilation of the information asked for over a period of seven years would not be commensurate with the labour involved.

945.—Yes.

946.—Mr. G. A. Small, I.E.S.

947.—Government are not prepared to state, in reply to a question whether any of their officers do or do not discharge their duties to their satisfaction.

Monopoly to Assam Oil Company for selling Petrol and Kerosene in Assam

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

948. Is it a fact that the Assam Oil Company Limited enjoys a monopoly for selling Petrol and Kerosene in Assam ?

949. Is it also a fact that the selling rate of Petrol and Kerosene at Calcutta and Bombay is lower than the selling rate of Petrol and Kerosene in Assam ?

950. If so, do Government propose to take steps, in view of the monopoly enjoyed by Assam Oil Company to regulate the selling rate of Petrol and Kerosene in Assam in the interests of the public ?

951. Is it a fact that the Assam Oil Company have given almost all the Petrol and Kerosene Selling Agencies to a particular Marwari firm ?

952. Will Government be pleased to give a statement with the name and number of the present Petrol and Kerosene Selling Agencies in Assam showing the quantity of oil sold and revenue derived in the following form and specify the Assamese Agents, if any ?

Statement showing Assam Oil Company sales depots and sales in Assam with the names of the Agents and Revenue derived during 1936-37

Names of Depot	Names of Agent	Petrol sales		Kerosene sales		Lubricants and greases		Total sale	Total Revenue
		Quantity.	Rs.a.p.	Quantity.	Rs.a.p.	Quantity.	Rs.a.p.	Rs.a.p.	Rs.a.p.

953. Do Government propose to arrange distribution of selling Agency to the educated Assamese young men in different localities with a view to relieve the unemployment problem ?

954. Will Government be pleased to ascertain and state the number of Assamese employed by the Assam Oil Company at present—

(*i*) In Service,

(*ii*) In contract,

(*iii*) In Selling Agencies and specify their percentage.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

948.—No. It is open to anyone to apply for licenses for mining oil in the province and no monopoly has been given to the Assam Oil Company for selling kerosene and petrol in Assam.

949.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to the starred question asked by Srijut Debeswar Sarmah at the current session of the Assembly.

950.—Government have not the power to regulate the selling rate of petrol and kerosene in Assam.

951.—The hon. member is referred to the answer to starred question 164(*d*) asked by Srijut Debeswar Sarma at the current session of the Assembly.

952.—Government have no information as the Assam Oil Company is a private concern and cannot be forced to disclose information of this kind.

953.—The distribution of selling agencies is not in the hands of this Government.

954.—Government have no information as to the number in service and under contract. Only one Sub-agency at Bokakhat is held by an Assamese.

Junior Madrasa classes attached to the Kakajan Middle English School

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :—

955. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Junior Madrassa classes attached to the Kakajan Middle English School have been showing good results for several years and that the Director of Public Instruction was of opinion that the classes should be made permanent ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that no additional expenditure will be necessary to make the classes permanent ?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that the classes could not be made permanent last year inspite of the Director of Public Instruction's recommendations on account of certain technical objections ?

(*d*) Whether steps are being taken to put the classes on a permanent basis this year ?

(*e*) If the reply to (*d*) above be in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister please give reasons ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

955. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The additional expenditure, if any, will not be very great.

(*c*)—The late Government passed orders that the question of making the classes permanent should be postponed pending the consideration of the comparative rate of fees in Madrassas.

(*d*)—The matter is under consideration.

(*e*)—Does not arise.

Total amount of Expenditure on Education in the Province

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

956. Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the total amount of expenditure on education in the province ?

(*b*) What percentage of this amount is spent in higher education and primary education respectively ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to sanction more funds for primary education in view of the fact that the percentage of literate population in the province is very low ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

956. (*a*)—The total amount of expenditure during 1936-37 was Rs.34,66,760.

(*b*)—71·75 per cent. and 28·25 per cent. respectively. The term 'higher education' has been taken to mean education other than 'primary'.

(*c*)—Yes. An additional provision of Rs.50,000 recurring has been made in the budget for expansion of primary education.

Concessions to Assam Oil Company for working oil mines in Digboi and Hansapung

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

957. Will Government be pleased to place on Library table the copies of the leases drawn between the Assam Oil Company, Limited, and the Government for working oil mines in Digboi and at Hansapung ?

(*a*) Also the copies of the Prospecting Licenses granted to them for sinking test wells in different areas ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) Why monopoly had been granted so long to one party ?

(*ii*) Whether public advertisement was issued inviting offers for such licenses from other Oil working parties ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

957 and 957. (*a*)—As the Mining Leases and Prospecting Licenses were granted to the Assam Oil Company by this Government on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council under rules sanctioned by him, copies of the Leases or Licenses cannot be placed on the table without his sanction.

(*b*) (*i*)—No monopoly has been given to the Assam Oil Company.

(*ii*)—No. Any one interested in the mining of oil is at liberty to apply for a license.

Inmates of the Hostels of the Government College at Gauhati

MR. NABA KUMAR DATTA asked :

958. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the inmates of the hostels of the Government College at Gauhati are not allowed to take medical aid from private medical practitioners when they intend to do so ?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) above, is in the affirmative, do Government realise the hardship which is often caused by such a bar ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of allowing qualified private medical practitioners to treat any inmate of the Government College hostels at Gauhati when the said inmate desires to be so treated ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

958. (*a*)—Inmates of Government hostels are under the medical supervision of the Medical Officer provided by Government and private medical practitioners have, at present, no *locus standi* in such hostels.

(*b*)—Government is not aware of any case of hardship.

(*c*)—If the hon. member will inform Government of any particular cases of hardship which have arisen Government will consider the possibility of amending the rule.

Dibrugarh Boys' Government High School

SRIJUT JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

959. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the year in which the main building of Dibrugarh Boys' Government High School was built ?

(*b*) Is there any other Government High School building in the province as old as the above ?

960. (*a*) Is it a fact that the above building requires to be rebuilt at an early date ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to take up the work at once ?

(*c*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

959. (*a*)—In 1885-86.

(*b*)—Yes, the Sibsagar Government High School.

960. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes, when funds are available.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

Spread of Cattle diseases in the Mouzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision

SRIJUT JOGESH CHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

961. (*a*) Is it a fact that there have been cattle diseases specially in Lengri, Tingkhong, Kheramia, and Dhemaji mouzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, what action Government has been taking in this respect ?

(*c*) If Government has no such information, do Government propose to make an immediate enquiry and take necessary steps to prevent further spread of the diseases ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to make immediate advances by way of "Agricultural Loans" on nominal interest and also to exempt the distressed cultivators of the affected localities from payment of their land revenue for the present, to enable them to get supply of their ploughing cattle ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

961. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The two local Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were supplemented by six other extra Veterinary Assistant Surgeons deputed from time to time from Gauhati. The Veterinary Inspector, Upper Assam Circle, paid several visits and organised the epidemic work. The Veterinary Investigation Officer was also deputed and the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, himself visited the Subdivision more than once and arranged work in connection with the epidemic in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner of the district and the Chairman, Local Board, Dibrugarh.

(*c*)—The question does not arise.

(*d*)—Government have already placed a sum of Rs.1,000 at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, for issue as Agricultural Loans for purchase of cattle on account of the epidemic. The question of suspension or remission of land revenue is within the competence of the local officers.

Government loan in relief of distress caused by the Hailstorms in Jaintia Hills

REV. L. GATPHOH asked :

962. Will Government be pleased to state what was the amount of money sanctioned for the grant of loans to the people in Jaintia Hills whose crops were damaged by the hailstorms in the Autumn of 1936 ?

963. Will Government be pleased to state what was the sum of money left over out of the money sanctioned after the issuing of loans to individual persons ?

964. Is it a fact that the Sub-Deputy Collector, Jowai, acted independently of the Subdivisional Officer and also of members of village *panchayats* in drawing up lists of persons entitled to get Government loans ?

965. Have Government received any complaint regarding the way of administering loans in Jaintia Hills and what steps have been taken to redress the grievances of the people ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

962.—Rs.5,000.

963.—An amount of Rs.3,106 has not yet been distributed but it is anticipated that it will all be utilised either as loans or gratuitous relief.

964.—The Sub-Deputy Collector made his enquiries in accordance with instructions received from the Deputy Commissioner. He appears to have consulted the Dolois and village Head-men, but did not always find their reports reliable.

965.—The Deputy Commissioner received reports that the original list compiled was not complete, so he instituted fresh enquiries and sent an Extra Assistant Commissioner to Jowai to help in the distribution of relief on loans.

Grant of Diploma for the students who passed the Assam Senior Madrasa Final Examination

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY asked :

966. Will the Government please state whether there is any diploma for the students who pass the Assam Senior Madrasa Final Examination ? If not, why not ?

967. Are the Government aware that there is a diploma for the students who pass the Calcutta Madrasa Final Examination ?

968. Will the Government please consider the desirability of arranging for a similar diploma for students who pass the Assam Senior Madrasa Final Examination considering the value of the said Examination ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

966.—A certificate is given.

967.—In Calcutta Madrasa a similar certificate is given.

968.—Government consider that the present certificate is all that is required.

Establishment of a Gymnasium in the Cotton College, Gauhati

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

969. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether a scheme for establishment of a Gymnasium in the Cotton College was submitted by the present Principal of the College. If so, what steps Government have taken for furtherance of the scheme ?

(*b*) Whether Government contemplate to take early steps for establishing an ideal Gymnasium in the Cotton College ?

970. (*a*) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department recognise the necessity of providing all High English and Middle Schools with Gymnasia for the physical improvement of the students ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to grant sufficient funds to all recognised High English and Middle English Schools of the province for the purpose and to see that a well-equipped Gymnasium is started in each of them without delay ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

969. (*a*)—A scheme for a Gymnasium to cost Rs.17,252 was submitted by the Principal in 1935. For want of funds no action was taken.

(*c*)—When funds are available Government will consider the proposal.

970. (*a*) and (*b*)—Government recognise the desirability of providing Gymnasia in schools, but have no funds for the purpose at present.

Total number of guns for the last 5 years

MAULAVI MUNAWWARALI asked :

971. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please give the following information :—

(1) total number of guns ?

(*a*) for protection of crops,

(*b*) for sports and self-protection—

(*i*) in the whole province,

(*ii*) in the Surma Valley,

(*iii*) in the Sunamganj Subdivision,

year by year, for the five years preceding the year 1922, and for the five years following the year 1922 and also for the last five years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

971.—The information, as far as available, is given in the statement below :—

Year	Total number of guns for the last 5 years		Total number of guns for the protection of crops for the last 5 years		Total number of guns for sports and self-protection for the last 5 years	
	In the whole province	In Surma Valley	In the whole province	In Surma Valley	In the whole province	In Surma Valley
1936 ...	27,917	11,051	15,700	6,334	11,623	4,659
1935 ...	28,176	11,272	16,048	6,633	11,449	4,520
1934 ...	28,226	11,479	16,162	6,722	11,357	4,614
1933 ...	28,137	11,557	16,444	6,858	11,175	4,609
1932 ...	28,003	11,609	16,533	6,954	11,000	4,599

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 23rd August 1937)

Berry-White Medical School

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

972. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total number of seats for admission in the 1st year class of the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh ?

(*b*) The method of selection of candidates for admission ?

(*c*) Are the selections made on valley and communal basis ?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the seats reserved for (*i*) Muslims, (*ii*) Surma Valley Hindus, (*iii*) any other communities ?

(*e*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the desirability of abolishing the present system and throwing open admission on the basis of examination results ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the doors of the Medical School at Chittagong, Dacca, and Calcutta are closed to the students of Assam ?

(*g*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take immediate steps to open the Medical School at Sylhet ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

972.(*a*)—This depends on the number of vacancies. The number of annual admissions during the last three years has been 67, 43 and 54.

(*b*)—The method of selection of candidates for admission to the School is made under rules 12-18 for the management of the Berry-White Medical School.

(*c*)—On a communal but not a valley basis.

(*d*)—

Muslims	31 per cent.
Hindus, Surma Valley	9 ,, ,,
Hindus, Assam Valley	26 ,, ,,
Scheduled Castes	6 ,, ,,
Domiciled Hindus (other than *ex*-coolies)	Less than 1 per cent.
Tribal people (Hills and plains) ...	16 per cent.
Residents of the Province	7 ,, ,,
Others	5 ,, ,,

(*e*)—No.

(*f*)—So far as the Chittagong and Dacca Schools are concerned Government has no information. A certain number of seats for Assam students are reserved in the Calcutta Medical College and two seats for females in the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta.

(*g*)—Not at present.

Principles of making remarks in the service book of Government Officers

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked:

973.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forest be pleased to state, if the copies of remarks, whether good or bad, made in the service book of Government Officers are communicated to the person concerned?

(*b*) If so, why the remarks made by Divisional Forest Officer, Darrang, in the service book of Maulavi Abdul Manir, once a Forester, were not communicated to him?

974.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forest be pleased to state whether Maulavi Abdul Manir, once a Forester, preferred appeals for the injustice done to him?

(*b*) If so, what were the result of the appeal?

975. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forest be pleased to state—

(*a*) Where Maulavi Abdul Manir is posted now and why?

(*b*) Was he degraded or reduced?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

973.(*a*)—If a specially good remark is recorded the Divisional Forest Officer usually notes the subordinates' name in his Annual Administration Reports to Conservator. If a specially bad remark is made a copy is usually communicated to the person concerned. The principles in this connection are enunciated in paragraph 314 of the Assam Executive Manual.

(*b*)—Government have no information on the point but a reference may be made to the Divisional Forest Officer, Darrang, if desired.

974.(*a*)—Yes. An appeal was preferred against the order of the Conservator of Forests degrading the forester to a forest guard.

(*b*)—The appeal was rejected.

975.(*a*)—He was posted to Lakhimpur in the interests of public service and is now on leave.

(*b*)—He was degraded.

Report of the Marketing Officer

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked:

976. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge lay on the table a copy of the report of the Marketing Officer of the Government of Assam, on the marketing of the commodities, submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, through the Director of Agriculture, Assam?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

976.—No. Under the instructions of the Government of India (who are financing the enquiry) the reports cannot at present be made public.

Area of Government Reserve Forest and unclassed forests in Habiganj

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked:

977. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forests be pleased to state:—

(*a*) The area of the Government Reserve Forest and the area of the unclassed forests in the Subdivision of Habiganj ?

(*b*) The amount of annual income from all sources from each class of these forests ?

(*c*) The total amount of the cost of administration and other expenses incurred annually under each class of the forests ?

978. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government proposes to lease out Unclassed State Forests to people having no land for the purpose of permanent habitation and cultivation ?

979.(*a*) Is it a fact that the quantity of land allotted for pasturage for villagers living in the neighbourhood of unclassed or reserve forests in the Habiganj Subdivision is extremely inadequate ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to allot sufficient land for grazing purpose ?

980.(*a*) Is it a fact that there have been complaints from the public that the forest subordinates do sometimes put them in unnecessary harassment, in the guise of protecting the Government's interest ?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Governmeut propose to put a stop to it ?

981. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Forest cases and cases connected with forest matter of Chunarughat, Bahubal and Madhabpur Thanas under Habiganj Subdivision for the years 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

(*b*) The amount of fines realised during each of the aforesaid years in those cases ?

(*c*) The class of people who are generally the alleged offenders ?

982.(*a*) Is it a fact that there have been instances of corruption prevailing in forest reserves and checking stations involving unnecessary harassments to the people ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to diminish the number of checking stations in the Province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

977.(*a*)—Area of Reserved Forests—34 square miles.

Area of Unclassed State Forests is not available, as the land is unsurveyed.

(*b*)—Amount of annual income in 1936-37—

	Rs.
Reserved Forests	11,168
Unclassed State Forests*...	4,594*

*These figures exclude grazing dues collected by the Civil Department.

(*c*)—Amount of annual cost of administration in 1936-37—

	Rs.
Reserved Forests	6,474
Unclassed State Forests	1,221

978.—The Unclassed State Forests are in the course of reclassification under orders of Government and lands suitable for cultivation are being thrown open for settlement.

979.(*a*) and (*b*)—No. Grazing is already permitted in unclassed forests and grazing in the small area of Reserves is also permitted on conditions. Before any reserved forests are constituted, the needs of the villages for grazing grounds are fully considered.

980.(*a*) & (*b*)—Government have no information.

981.(*a*) & (*b*)—

Year	Number of cases	Compensation on cases compounded	Fines imposed by Court
		Rs.	Rs.
1934-35 ...	227	836	243
1935-36 ...	193	563	862
1936-37 ...	196	1,031	654

(*c*)—Generally middle and lower class people.

982.(*a*)—Government have no such information.

(*b*)—Checking Stations are necessary under the Transit Rules and any reduction would mean trouble to the people who require their services in passing forest produce.

Kinds of appeals to be heard by the Revenue Board or Revenue Tribunal

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

983. Will the Government be pleased to state what kinds of appeals are heard by the Revenue Board or Revenue Tribunal ?

984. How many Revenue appeals and how many Excise appeals were filed before the said Board or Tribunal during April, May and June last ?

955. (1) In how many Revenue and how many Excise Appeals pleaders were heard ?

(2) And how many Excise appeals and Revenue appeals were summarily disposed of without hearing any pleader ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

983.—The hon. member is referred to section 296(1) of the Government of India Act. Excise and Revenue appeals at present come before the Tribunal.

984.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to question No. 529 asked by Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman at this Session of the Assembly.

985.(1) and (2)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing number of appeals summarily disposed of, number in which pleaders were heard, etc., in the Court of the Assam Revenue Tribunal up to 31st July 1937

——	Number of appeals summarily rejected without calling for records	Number disposed of after calling for records without hearing pleaders	Number disposed of after calling for records and hearing pleaders	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Revenue appeals.	11	66	2	79	(*a*) Out of the 79 revenue cases disposed of 48 had no *vakalatnamas*.
Excise appeals	6	10	6	22	(*b*) In addition to the 2 revenue cases, in which pleaders were heard pleaders have been heard in 2 other cases not yet disposed of and in 4 other cases, dates have been fixed for hearing pleaders at Gauhati and at Sylhet.
Tota ...	17	76	8	101	(*c*) Out of 66 revenue cases disposed of without hearing pleaders, appellants were successful in 28 cases.

Sub-Assistant Surgeon on Bahubal Dispensary

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

986. (*a*) Are the Government aware that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of Bahubal Dispensary has been condemned by the Habiganj Local Board at their meeting dated the 12th June 1937 ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken in the matter, and

(*c*) If not, do they propose to make any enquiry and take necessary steps ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

986. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—The matter is under enquiry.
(*c*)—Does not arise.

Trial of Original Criminal Sessions Case—King-Emperor *versus* Ganpat Rai Agarwalla

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

987. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the Sessions Court at Gauhati was not open to the public when the Original Criminal Sessions Case, King-Emperor *versus* Ganpat Rai Agarwalla under section 376, Indian Penal Code, was being tried ?

(*b*) Did the members of the public make any representation to the Hon'ble Judical Minister to interfere in the matter of the exclusion of the public and the Law students of Gauhati by the Presiding Sessions Judge in the case referred to in question 987 (*a*) above ?

(*c*) If the answer to question (*b*) above is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the reasons for doing so and what steps were taken in the matter and whether the public were informed of the results of the steps if any taken by Government ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied—

987. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—Yes. Only a law student sent a wire.
(*c*)—This was a case of rape on a girl of immature age and probably the Sessions Judge excluded the general public on that ground. The Code of Criminal Procedure gives complete discretion to the Court in the matter and Government have no legal power to interfere.

Location of the Civil and Criminal Courts in Karimganj

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

988. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that considerable difficulty and inconvenience are being felt by the lawyers and litigants of Karimganj subdivision for the Civil and Criminal Courts being situated at a distance of about half a mile from one another ?

989. Is it a fact that some years ago, on the representation of the Karimganj Pleaders' Bar Association, His Excellency Sir Laurie Hammond after a personal visit to the town, approved of the idea of bringing both these Courts together but they postponed giving effect to this decision for want of funds as noted in Private Secretary's letter No. 1923 P.S., dated the 30th November 1927, addressed to the Secretary, Pleaders' Bar Association, Karimganj ?

990. Is it a fact that this scheme can be given effect to by shifting the *Ilam*, Sub-Registry and Education Offices to the site of the present Civil Court and by locating the Civil Courts in the *Ilam* Office building even without incurring any expenditure on a large scale ?

991. If so, do Government propose to take early steps for bringing both the Civil and Criminal Courts together ?

992. If no enquiry has previously been made for this shifting arrangement, do Government p opose to enquire into its feasibility and take early steps in the matter ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

988.—It is true that some difficulty is felt, but it is not considered to be so great as to make a change mperative.

989.—His Excellency Sir Laurie Hammond made a suggestion to that effect, but on enquiry it was found that this site available near the Subdivisional Officer's Court would not be sufficient to accommodate the Munsif's Court and other offices.

990 and 991.—No. The building which at present houses the *Ilam* and Deputy Inspector of Schools' offices and the Sub-Registry is too small to accommodate two munsiffs' courts, is not according to the type plan laid down by the High Court, and is not capable of extension owing to the land available in the vicinity being insufficient.

992.—Does not arise.

Number and names of Reserved Forests in Assam Valley Division

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMIRUDDIN asked :

993. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number and names of the Reserved Forests in the districts of Assam Valley and the areas contained therein ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

993. (*a*)—A statement is laid on the table.

List of Reserved Forests in the districts of Assam Valley and the area contained therein

Division	Civil district or territory	Name of forest	Area on 31st March 1937
			Acres
Eastern Circle—			
Darrang ...	Darrang Civil District.	Bhamaraguri Reserve ...	386
		Garumari Reserve ...	245
		Singri Hill Reserve ...	1,200
		Orang Reserve ...	15,656
		Singrimara Reserve ...	840
		Noanadi Reserve ...	406
		Charduar Reserved Forest (partly in Balipara Frontier Tract).	Area of Reserved Forest (in Civil District only) 31,971

Division	Civil district or territory	Name of forest	Area on 31st March 1937 (Acres)
Eastern Circle—*concld.*			
Darrang ...	Darrang Civil District—*concld.*	Nauduar Reserved Forest (partly in Balipara Frontier Tract).	4,864
		Biswanath Reserved Forest (partly in Balipara Frontier Tract).	5,888
		Behali Reserved Forests (partly in Balipara Frontier Tract).	11,008
		Gohpur Reserved Forests (partly in Balipara Frontier Tract).	2,893
Nowgong ...	Nowgong ...	Sonaikuchi Reserve ...	13,104
		Kholahat Reserve ...	15,368
		Borpani Reserve ...	7,840
		Jakota Reserve ...	3,275
		Bamuni Reserve ...	384
		Suang Reserve ...	6,535
		Kukrakata Reserve ...	3,936
		Diju Valley Hills Reserve.	5,703
		Bagser Reserve ..	8,320
		Kamakhaya Reserve ...	1,280
		Rongkhong Reserve ...	8,887
		Doboka Reserve ...	30,152
		Sildharampur Reserve	4,191
		Jungthung Reserve ...	8,047
		Chelabar Reserve ...	8,288
		Jamuna Reserve ...	1,256
		Madanga Reserve ...	2,545
		Hojai Reserve ...	1,341
		Habaipur Reserve ...	4,676
		Kaki Reserve ...	45,440
		Lutumai Reserve ...	9,216
		Dhansiri Reserve ...	132,480
		Lumding Reserve ...	52,158
		Daldali Reserve ...	30,752
		Disama Reserve ...	27,712
		Laokhowa Reserve ...	25,760
Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar ...	Deroi Reserve ...	11,940
		Abhayapur Reserve ...	16,637
		Sola Reserve ...	1,688
		Panidihingia Reserve ...	10,752
		Sapekati Reserve ...	1,840
		Dili Reserve ...	7,488

Division	Civil district or territory	Name of forest	Area on 31st March 1937 — Acres
Eastern Circle—*contd.*			
Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar—*concld.*	Geleki Reserve ...	14,640
		Holongapar Reserve ...	5,184
		Desai Reserve ...	6,916
		Desai Valley Reserve ...	40,480
		Tiru Hills Reserve ...	13,788
		Panbari Reserve ...	1,892
		Kaziranga Reserve ...	106,137
		Kakodanga Reserve ...	6,129
		Dayang Reserve ...	60,875
		Kaliani Reserve ...	51,840
		Mikir Hills Reserve ...	51,840
		Upper Daigurung Reserve.	5,312
		Lower Daigurung Reserve.	5,120
		Nambor Reserve ...	178,923
		Diphu Reserve ...	42,080
		Rengma Reserve ...	34,400
Lakhimpur ...	Lakhimpur and Lakhimpur Frontier Tract.	Dehingmukh Reserve ...	14,368
		Jokai Reserve ...	4,563
		Namdang Reserve ...	5,246
		Telpani Reserve ...	3,290
		Upper Dehing Reserve (West block).	67,917
		Kakojan Reserve ...	5,798
		Tokawani Reserve ...	1,242
		Dangri Reserve ...	2,272
		Mesaki Reserve ...	3,376
		Dumduma Reserve ...	6,838
		Padumani Reserve ...	435
		Bherjan Reserve ...	262
		Barrajan Reserve ...	1,248
		Dibru Reserve ...	61,732
		Dirak Reserve ...	7,515
		Upper Dehing Reserve (East block).	32,640
		Burhi-Dihing Reserve (North block). ...	1,093
		Burhi-Dihing Reserve (South block). ...	1,921
		Duarmara Reserve ...	1,613
		Digboi Reserve (East block). ...	309·3
		Digboi Reserve (West block). ...	2,393·6

Division	Civil district or territory	Name of forest	Area on 31st March 1937 — Acres
Eastern Circle—*contd*—			
Lakhimpur ...	Lakhimpur and Lakhimpur Frontier Tract—*concld.*	Bogapani Reserve ...	240
		Tirap Reserve ...	3,594
		Jaipur Reserve ...	26,336
		Kadam Reserve ...	8,960
		Dulong Reserve ...	24,464
		Ranga Reserve ...	22,208
		Kakai Reserve ...	10,910
		Subansiri Reserve ...	64,384
Goalpara ...	.....	Guma Reserve ...	16,786
		Ripu Reserve ...	149,568
		Kachugaon Reserve ...	52,992
		Chirang Reserve ...	146,420
		Bengtol Reserve ...	15,206
		Bhumeswar Hills Reserve	4,544
		Monas Reserve ...	190,272
Kamrup ...	Kamrup ...	Borjuli Reserve ...	2,792
		Jaipur Reserve ...	806
		Nampathar Reserve ...	3,411
		Baradobba Reserve ...	1,074
		Gizang Reserve ...	8,580
		Jarikhuri Reserve ...	3,087
		Mugakhal Reserve ...	319
		Sursuria Hill Reserve ...	963
		Khurkhuri Reserve ...	164
		Garubaldha Reserve ...	272
		Taraibari Reserve ...	789
		Ghoraputa Reserve ...	118
		Khatkhati Hill Reserve	614
		Khaksi Sikrabura Reserve.	2,520
		Dumpara Reserve ...	478
		Simla Hill Reserve ...	312
		Dudkhuri Reserve ...	173
		Luki Reserve	2,236
		Singra Reserve ...	936
		Moman Reserve ...	7,935
		Dimali Reserve ...	130
		Melaghat Reserve ...	896
		Dhuniagon Reserve ...	90
		Milmilia Reserve ...	4,851
		Chhaygaon Reserve ...	3,198
		Kulsi Reserve ...	4,584
		Pantan Reserve ...	27,875
		Barduar Reserve ...	17,880
		Mayang Hill Reserve ...	5,451
		Mataikhar Reserve ...	4,162

Division	Civil district or territory	Name of forest	Area on 31st March 1937
			Acres
Eastern Circle—*concld.*			
Kamrup ...	Kamrup—*concld.*	Kawasing Reserve ...	2,467
		Jarasal Reserve ...	3,104
		Rani Reserve ...	10,796
		Matiata Hills Reserve	814
		Garbhanga Reserve ...	28,320
		Hajo Reserve ...	243
		Sildar Hill Reserve ...	127
		Darrang Reserve ...	5,440
		Aigathuri Hill Reserve ...	899
		Mora Pagladia Reserve...	3,200
		Suban Khata Reserve ...	5,776
		North Kamrup Reserve...	66,848
		Kaklabari Reserve ...	18,688
		Kahitama Reserve ...	8,416
		Batabari Reserve ...	5,344
		Khatajuli Reserve ...	272
		Gohaingurung Reserve...	310
Garo Hills ...	Garo Hills	Chima Banshi Reserve ...	5,760
		Dhuna Reserve ...	5,120
		Dilma Reserve ...	640
		Raja Simla Reserve ...	4,480
		Ildek Reserve ...	640
		Rongrenggiri Reserve ...	8,960
		Dambu Reserve ...	4,480
		Songsak Reserve ...	5,760
		Darugiri Reserve ...	2,560
		Siju Reserve ...	1,280
		Rewak Reserve ...	1,600
		Emangiri Reserve ...	2,048
		Bagmara Reserve ...	10,944
		Angratoli Reserve ...	7,440
		Dibru Hill Reserve ...	3,712
		Tura Reserve ...	512

Mortality in the area under the Karimganj Municipal Board

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

994. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health please place on the table a list showing the number of deaths from various diseases within the area of Karimganj Municipal Board since January last with the population thereof ?

995. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how many of the mortality were from Typhoid and how many from other disease ?

996. What are the causes of the increased mortality due to Typhoid comparison with the years preceding 1937 ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

994.—A statement is laid down on the table.

Mortality in Karimganj Town from January to June 1937 by months

Population	Month	Cholera	Malaria	Enteric (Typhoid)	Measles	Relapsing fever	*Kala azar*	Other fever	Dysentery	Diarrhœa	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory diseases	Wound and accidents	Deaths from all other causes	Total of all deaths
5,691	January ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	7
Ditto	February...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
Ditto	March ...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	7	14
Ditto	April ...	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1	3	13
Ditto	May ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	3	1	1	2	...	6	17
Ditto	June ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	6

995.—Four and 56 respectively.

996.—The information is not available. The Civil Surgeon has been asked to report the reason for the increase.

Extension of the play-ground of the Sylhet Madrassa

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY asked :

997. Is it a fact that Government proposed to extend the play-ground of the Sylhet Madrassa and sanction an amount for the purpose ?

998. (*a*) Is it a fact that on the plea of introduction of the new constitution the last Ministry kept it suspended ?

(*b*) If so, do the present Ministry propose to put the project into action ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

997.—Yes. The late Government offered to pay half the cost if the Muhammadan community agreed to bear the other half.

998. (*a*)—No. The community concerned could not raise the necessary funds and the matter was dropped.

(*b*)—Government will consider the possibility of doing so.

Member of the Revenue Tribunal, Assam

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

999. Will Government be pleased to state whether the office of the member of the Revenue Tribunal can be held by a suitable retired Government servant or by a non-official ?

1000. Is it a fact that money can be saved by adopting the suggestions ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

999 and 1000.—The post of member of the Revenue Tribunal was provisionally reserved for a member of the I. C. S. under section 246 of the Government of India Act by the Secretary of State. Some doubt has, however arisen as to the constitutional position, having regard to the provisions of section 296(2) of the Act, and a reference is being made to the Government of India accordingly. Until this point is decided the question cannot be answered.

Permanently settled rivers of Sunamganj subdivision

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1001. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge state the following :—

(1) Whether the permanently settled rivers Jadukata, Peain, and Kangsa, etc. in the Sunamganj subdivision, were taken over by Government by resumption proceedings ?

(2) If so, when and why in each case ?
(3) Whether merely water or merely land or both were taken over ?
(4) Whether land revenue and local rates of the Taluka concerned were also reduced to the extent of the area resumed in each case ?
(5) If so, what were the amounts in each case ?
(6) If not why not ?
(7) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to examine the justice and equity of the said taking over, in each case ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1001. (1)-(7)—In response to a similar question asked by the hon. member two years ago Government made enquiries from the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, who reported that no such resumption proceedings could be traced for the last ten years. As the hon. member has given no indication of the date, if any, of such proceedings no further enquiry could be made.

Removal of disabilities of Nepalese to be voters to Legislative Assembly and Local Board ?

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1002. (*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a resolution passed in different conferences of Tezpur subdivision such as (*i*) Tezpur session of the Assam Political Conference held at Becheria, (*ii*) Charduar Ryot Sava held at Thelamara, (*iii*) Tezpur Zilla Ryot Sava held at Becheria, (*iv*) Choyduar Ryot Sava held at Balijan, (*v*) Naduar Ryot Sava held at Lehugaon to remove the disabilities of the permanently settled Nepalee people to be the voters to the Legislative Assembly and the Local Board ?

(*b*) If so, whether Government propose to take immediate step to remove their disabilities ?

1003. Is it a fact (*a*) that the Nepalese are given the requisite franchise in districts other than Darrang in this province ?

(*b*) That many Nepalese appeared before the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, and produced applications swearing allegiance to the British Crown and affidavits about their birth place (according to the rules as provided) and that Deputy Commissioner refused those applications and thereby refused the franchise ?

(*c*) If so, on what grounds the Deputy Commissioner has refused these applications ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1002. (*a*)—No. The hon. member has not specified the newspaper or newspapers in which the resolutions appeared or the dates on which they were passed.

(*b*)—No. The Government of India Act does not allow persons who are neither British subjects nor Rulers or subjects of Indian States to be voters for the Legislature. The rules for Local Board elections follow those for the Assembly in this matter.

1003. (*a*)—Nepalese are given the requisite franchise equally in all the districts of the province, if they are eligible according to the rules.

(*b*)—Certain applications were filed before the Deputy Commissioner.

(*c*)—The applicants failed to adduce evidence in support of their claims.

List of Endowment Properties

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1004. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department please state whether Government propose to compile a comprehensive list of Public Religious Institutions, having properties endowed by the old Assam Rajas and their officers ?

1005. If so, do Government propose to entrust this work to the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samity and to assist it with necessary funds and with the services of an officer having special aptitude for research work ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1004.—Not at present.
1005.—Does not arise.

Revival of Spinning Industry

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1006. (*a*) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department recognise that spinning is a household occupation of the Assamese people and this occupation is rapidly dying out for lack of encouragement from the Government ?

(*b*) Have the Government done anything so far, for the spread of spinning and production of Khaddar ?

(*c*) If not, do Government propose to take immediate steps for popularising and reviving this spinning habit ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1006. (*a*)—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part—so far as Government are aware—people are not taking to spinning owing to the fact that it is unremunerative owing to mill yarns being cheaper—not for lack of Government encouragement.

(*b*)—Charkas were distributed in certain areas but in spite of the encouragement given by the weaving staff the people would not take to them as the occupation was unremunerative.

(*c*)—No: there is nothing to prevent the people taking to the habit themselves if they wish to. But Government would gladly consider any practical suggestion which the hon. member might make on the subject.

Public Religious Endowments

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1007. (*a*) Are Government aware that gross mismanagement is going on in respect of most of the Public Religious Endowments in Assam and that as a result many estates belonging to them are being lost to the religious institutions having been sold for arrears of revenue ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to undertake some legislation for the purpose of protection of these institutions and to constitute in the meantime a Non-Official Board for exercising a general supervision and control over their management ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1007. (*a*)—Government are aware that some of the religious endowments in Assam are not being well managed.

(*b*)—The present Government have not so far taken the matter under their consideration but as the hon. member has brought it to their notice they will consider what can be done. The matter was considered several times by previous Governments, but it was decided to take no action. It is of course open to the hon. member to introduce a private Bill dealing with the subject.

Barnagar Middle English School in Barpeta subdivision

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1008. Will Government state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Barnagar Middle English School in the Barpeta subdivision used to enjoy grant-in-aid from Government ?

(*ii*) that the said school was amalgamated with the Barnagar High English School about 2 years back ?

(*iii*) that since after the amalgamation the number of Middle English Schools receiving grant-in-aid in the subdivision has fallen from 2 to 1 and that there were applications from deserving Middle English Schools for grant-in-aid ?

1009. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Barnagar High School in the Barpeta subdivision is the recipient of only Rs.25 per month as grant-in-aid and that there have been repeated representations from the school authority to increase the grant-in-aid ?

(*b*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the case and to take early steps to sanction a higher grant-in-aid with effect from the current year ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1008. (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—The schools were amalgamated in 1936.

(*iii*)—Yes.

1009. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*)—Yes, if the additional provision of Rs.20,000 in the current year's budget for increased grants-in-aid is passed by the Assembly.

Bajali High School in Barpeta subdivision

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1010. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state :—

(*i*) Whether the Bajali High School in the Barpeta subdivision was started as a private enterprise in 1926 by the people of Bajali?

(*ii*) Whether the people directly contributing to its fund are the poor agriculturists of the locality ?

(*iii*) Whether after several representations the Government sanctioned a grant-in-aid of only Rs.60 per month to the school in 1932 ?

(*iv*) Whether various representations made since then to increase the grant have met with no success ?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the case and to take steps to sanction a higher grant with effect from the current year in view specially of the fact that in the Barpeta subdivision the amount of grant-in-aid to High Schools is very small ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1010. (*a*) (*i*)—Yes.
(*ii*)—Yes.
(*iii*)—Yes.
(*iv*)—Yes.
(*b*)—Yes, if the additional provision of Rs.20,000 in the current year's budget for increased grants-in-aid is passed by the Assembly.

Amount spent for communication, education and sanitation in Jaintia Parganas

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

1011. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware of the fact that Jaintia Parganas is neglected by the North-Sylhet Local Board in matters of communication, primary education and sanitation ?

1012. If the answer is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the amount spent during the last 3 years by the said Board towards the sanitation, education and communication for the entire area of the Board and the amount spent for the Jaintia Parganas during the corresponding last 3 years for the sanitation, communication and education ?

1013. Will Government be pleased to state the amount received annually by the said Board from the Jaintia Parganas as local rates, pound, ferry and market tolls ?

1014. Will Government be pleased to state the total income derived by the Local Board, Sylhet Sadar, from the entire subdivision under the heads "local rates, ferries, pound, market, bridge, tolls and Government grants" ?

1015. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of ear-marking an amount from their communication grants to the North-Sylhet Local Board for improving the road-communication of Jaintia Parganas ?

1016. If not, will Government be pleased to state the reasons ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1011.—Government do not consider that the interests of the Jaintia Parganas have been so well looked after as other parts of the subdivision. The North-Sylhet Local Board however do not think that such is the case.

1012.—The amount spent are as follows :—

	1934-35		1935-36		1936-37	
	Total	Jaintia	Total	Jaintia	Total	Jaintia
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Education ..	87,864	6,185	93,744	16,475	1,16,625	17,649
Sanitation ..	5,528	2,453	5,323	1,996	8,398	3,406
Communication ..	24,923	6,998	19,946	7,125	35,467	10,825

The Board also maintain three dispensaries in the Jaintia Parganas at an average annual cost of Rs.7,500.

1013.—The average receipts from Jaintia Parganas are as follows :—

	Rs.
Local rates	19,013
Pounds	2,471
Ferries	4,487
Market tolls	1,138

1014.—The figures for the year 1935-36 so far as available are as follows :—

Local rates	Tolls on ferries and roads	Receipts under Cattle Trespass Act	Revenue due from Bazars on Government lands and other land revenue	Government grant
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
62,116	14,142	6,713	1,254	93,174

1015.—The reply is in the negative.

1016.—The Jaintia Parganas appear to be getting their fair share so far as communications are concerned.

Upper Shillong Experimental Farm

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1017. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) The cost per year for maintaining the Upper Shillong Experimental Farm and for how long this Farm has been in existence ?

(2) The different items of business experiments the Farm has been carrying on ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1017. (1)—The cost for 3 years is given below :—

Year	Expenditure	Receipt	Net expenditure
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1934-35 ...	25,424 2 6	21,398 1 9	4,026 0 9
1935-36 ...	29,944 0 6	18,821 1 6	11,122 15 0
1936-37 ...	28,725 1 3	18,943 14 9	9,781 2 6

The Farm has been in existence for the last thirty-nine years, *i.e.*, from the year 1897-98.

(2) The items of business experiments are :—

1. Breeding of milch cattle.
2. Dairying.
3. Production of potatoes mainly for seeds.
4. Breeding of poultry and eggs production.
5. Sheep breeding.
6. Production of fodder crops and grasses.

Williamson Trust Fund

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1018. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the amount of the Williamson Trust Fund,

(*b*) the specific purposes of this Fund,

(*c*) when the Fund was first created ?

1019. Is it a fact that an Artisan School was opened out of this Fund at Dibrugarh ? If so, when was it opened, when closed and why ?

1020. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Assamese students of this School who were subsequently appointed as Overseers ?

1021. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Trust Deed ?

1022. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any bar in awarding scholarships for Engineering out of this Fund ?

1023. If the answer to question (1022) be in negative do Government propose to award some scholarships for Engineering to qualified *bonafide* Assamese students?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1018. (*a*)—The amount left by the testator was one lakh and the fund now amounts to Rs. 1,68,005-8-0.

(*b*)—A copy of the notification No.290-E., dated the 6th February 1934, detailing the purposes for which the income is available is laid on the table.

The 6th February 1934

No. 290-E.—In supersession of all previous orders on the subject, Government hereby direct that with effect from the 1st April 1934, and until further orders, the income of the Williamson Education Endowment Fund will be utilized for the following purposes :—

(1) In awarding not more than 12 stipends at a time for the training of apprentices, *viz.*:—

(*i*) four stipends for practical training in suitable factories and Railway Workshops ; half the number awarded to be reserved for passed students of the Technical Schools in Assam ;

(*ii*) four stipends tenable at the Assam Oil Company's Works, Digboi ;

(*iii*) four stipends for training in Cottage Industries outside the province.

The award of the above stipends will be subject to such conditions as may be considered necessary from time to time.

(2) In granting the following contributions :—

(*a*) annual contributions to institutions imparting technical instruction ;

(*b*) contributions to deserving individuals for the purchase of tools and implements necessary to their crafts ;

(*c*) contributions to school libraries for Vernacular teachers and pupils ;

(*d*) assistance to schools giving vocational training to their pupils.

In accordance with the conditions of the Endowment, the benefits will be confined to the residents of the Assam Valley (excepting Eastern Duars), Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the North Cachar Hills.

H. G. DENNEHY,
Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Transferred Departments.

(*c*)—In 1867.

1019.—Yes, in 1895 but it was closed in 1905 the reason being that there was then no such demand for men of the Sub-Overseer class as would justify the Administration in the maintenance of a school of elementary engineering.

1020.—After this lapse of time the information is not available.

1021.—There is no Trust Deed. The money was left to the Government in a will which contains numerous other legacies to his relations, friends and servants and Government are not prepared to lay a copy of a private will on the table.

1022.—There appears to be no such bar but this would require the amendment of the notification referred to in the reply to (*b*) above.

1023.—Engineering scholarships are already awarded by Government and the Budget provides for additional scholarships for this purpose. Government will, however, consider the point raised by the hon. member.

Representation of Muhammadans in the Assam School Service

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI asked :

1024. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Muhammadans are adequately represented in classes I and II of the Assam School Service on the basis of communal representation ?

(*b*) If not, do Government propose to give the Muhammadans their due share in filling up the future vacancies in classes I and II of the said service ?

1025.(*a*) Is it a fact that there is not a single Muhammadan Assistant Head Master in the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to remove this want which the Muhammadans are feeling so keenly ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1024.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—The difficulty is that classes I and II are filled by promotion from class III and it would be unfair to confine such promotion to Muhammadans. Government is considering how best to meet the situation.

1025.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The reply to question 1024 (*b*) may be seen.

Statement showing sale proceeds, Royalty and Excise duty on Assam Oil Company Products

SRIJUT LAKSHEVAR BOROOAH asked :

1026. Will Government be pleased to furnish (*a*) an account of sales of the Assam Oil Company's Products, in rupees, and show the Royalty and the Excise Duty paid to Government in the enclosed Form marked "A" during the past three years ending every financial year 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

FORM 'A'

PAGE 1

Statement showing sale proceeds, royalty and Excise duty on Assam Oil Company products during 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37

Products	Sales inside Assam			Sales outside Assam			Total sales Rupees	Total Royalty Rupees	Total Excise duty Rupees
	Quantity sold	Royalty Rupees	Excise duty Rupees	Quantity sold	Royalty Rupees	Excise duty Rupees			
1934-35									
Petrol { 1935-36 ..									
1936-37 ..									
1934-35 ..									
White kerosene { 1935-36									
1936-37									
1934-35									
Dark kerosene { 1935-36									
1936-37									
Lubricants									
Greases									
Disel Oil									
Coke									
Road Tar									
Wax									
Other products ..									
Where revenue is due..									

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(*b*) State whether the account is checked by Government for the purpose of Revenue ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1026.(*a*)—Except so far as royalty is concerned the information asked for in this question is not primarily the concern of the Provincial Government and it is not proposed, therefore, to make any attempt to obtain the figures required for the statement. The royalty received by the Provincial Government during the past three years is given below :—

	Rs.
1934-35	5,57,655
1935-36	5,96,553
1936-37	6,08,230

(*b*)—The hon. member is referred to Directions 21 and 22 at pages 34 and 35 of the Assam Mineral Concessions Manual, 1925.

Damage done to *Buro* crops by flood

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1027. Will the Minister in charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) If the *Buro* crops have been damaged this year in the subdivision of Sunamganj ; if so, how ?

(*b*) Whether Government adopted any preventive measure to protect the crops of cultivators from such destruction ; if not, why not ?

(*c*) The extent of such damages done to *Buro* crops throughout the subdivision in this year and also in the last five years ?

(*d*) The measures adopted by Government to relieve the affected people and the steps that are being taken to stop such damages to crop in future ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1027.(*a*)—No unusual damage has been reported but the outturn was low due to drought during the growing season.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—Some damage was caused in 1934 by flood but otherwise no particularly serious damage to *Boro* crops has taken place during the last 5 years.

(*d*)—The main remedy is sufficient irrigation. Government have given demonstrations to the use of power pump irrigation.

Area of *buro* land in the Sanir Haor of Sunamganj subdivision

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1028. (*a*) Is it a fact that a large area of *Bura* land remained uncultivated this year in the Sanir Haor in the subdivision of Sunamganj owing to non-subsidence of water?

(*b*) Will Government please state whether any enquiry was made about the cause of this new catastrophe to the poor cultivators ? If not, why not ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to make an enquiry now and take steps to stop the re-occurrence in future ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Government was petitioned for taking immediate remedial measures by certain cultivators residing in the west of Sanir Haor ? If so, will Government please state the result of it ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1028. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—This is reported to be due to the main outlet of Baigyani river being silted up. No proper enquiry could be made as the place was, and still is, under water.

(*c*)—Government will ask the Deputy Commissioner to have an enquiry made. Until an enquiry is made it is not possible to say what (if any) steps can be taken.

(*d*)—No such petition appears to have been received.

Establishment of Conciliation Boards

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1029. (*a*) Will Government please state when the debt Conciliation Boards will be established to give effect to section 3 of the Assam Debt Conciliation Act, 1936 ?

(*b*), (*i*) Will Government please state whether places have been allocated for such boards to be established ?

(*ii*) If so, will Government please lay a list on the table ?

(*iii*) the principles on which persons will be appointed, members and Chairmen of these Boards.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1029. (*a*) and (*b*), (*i*) and (*ii*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question (No.687) asked by Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan at this session of the Assembly.

(*b*), (*iii*)—Officers of Government are being appointed as Chairmen and gentlemen recommended by the District Officers and who are found willing to serve as members of these Boards. An attempt is made to balance gentlemen who represent the interests respectively of borrowers and lenders.

Provision of Fund for Primary Education

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

1030. Is it a fact that there is a growing demand for primary education in the Province, and the Boards are unable to cope with the demands owing to their limited resources ?

1031. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the recent discussion on education on the opening ceremony of the St. Anthony's School at Shillong ?

1032. Is it a fact that the literacy in Assam is only 9 per cent. ?

1033. Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to increase literacy ?

1034. Do Government propose to increase the educational grant to the Local Boards at least by 50 per cent. ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1030.—Yes.

1031.—Yes.

1032.—The percentage of literacy among the total population of Assam 5 years of age and above was 9·1 in 1931. For males it was 15·2 per cent. and for females 2·3 per cent.

1033 and 1034.—Government have provided an additional recurring grant of half a lakh in the current year's budget for this purpose and it is their intention — as funds become available — to give as much help as possible to Local Boards for the expansion of primary education.

Percentage of free-studentship

SRIJUT DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

1035. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the percentage of free-studentship fixed for education of boys of poor and indigent circumstances in Middle English and High English Schools ?

(*b*) the number of free-studentships to which each of the various communities, Caste Hindus, Scheduled Castes, backward tribal people and the Muhammadans are entitled ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1035. (*a*) and (*b*)—Thirteen per cent. of the total enrolment of a school, of which 8 per cent. is reserved for Muhammadans and 5 per cent. for *others*. No free-studentships are reserved specifically for the Scheduled Castes and the tribal people. They come under *others*.

Backward Scholarships

SRIJUT DHIRSINGH DEURI asked :

1036. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the clear meaning of the backward scholarships ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the backward scholarships are confined only to the successful students in secondary schools and not in Middle Vernacular and Middle English Schools ?

(*c*) If so, do Government propose to set apart a few backward scholarships in Middle Vernacular and Middle English Schools in each of the districts ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1036.(*a*)—Backward scholarships are special scholarships awarded to the educationally backward classes (excluding Muhammadans).

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

Ex-officio members of the Sylhet Municipal Board

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

1037. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) When Government officers were appointed as *ex-officio* members of the Sylhet Municipal Board for the last time ?

(*b*) How many meetings were held and in how many, the officers attended ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1037.(*a*)—By "Ex-officio members" the hon. member presumably refers to officers of Government appointed "Expert Advisers" under Section 10(2) of the Assam Municipal Act. The Civil Surgeon and the Deputy Inspector of Schools were so appointed a few weeks ago.

(*b*)—Presumably the hon. member is referring to the meetings held by the Board elected in 1934. If so, the Board held 14 meetings in 1935-36 and 13 in 1936-37. None of the meetings held in 1935-36 was attended by an "expert adviser" : one "expert adviser" attended two meetings in 1936-37. The hon. member is no doubt aware that the expert advisers are not members of the Board.

Provision for Commercial and Industrial Institution

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

1038.(*a*) Is it a fact that there is no institution in the province which imparts Commercial and Industrial knowledge to the people of the province ?

(*b*) If so, will Government please consider the desirability of starting an institution for the removal of this want by providing for the imparting of Commercial and Industrial knowledge, both theoretical and practical to the people of this province ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1038.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

Proprietor of the Dewan Manikchand Estate of Sylhet

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

1039. Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any representation from the present Proprietor of the Dewan Manikchand Estate of Sylhet for taking over charge of the said estate under the management of the Court of Wards ?

1040. If the answer to question No.1039 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how the matter stands and when it is likely to be disposed of.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1039 and 1040.—Yes, and the Court of Wards declined to take over the Estate as it was considered to be too hopelessly encumbered by debts. A further representation was received on 26th July 1937 but this has not yet been fully examined : it will be disposed of when the urgent pressure of Assembly and Council work has lightened.

Abolition of Dhupalpara and Anandapur Assamese-immigrant line

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1041. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue be pleased to state whether the Dhupalpara and Anandapur Assamese-immigrant line in the Bhabanipur mauza in the Barpeta subdivision has been abolished ?

(*b*) If so, when and by whose order ?

(*c*) If the reply is in the negative have Government taken any steps to maintain the line policy in tact in view of the decision of the Revenue Tribunal, dated 17th June 1937 in the Dhupalpara case ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1041. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—In November 1928, apparently by the Subdivisional Officer, Barpeta.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

Checking of Hill Tipperah timbers in the British Forest Checking Office

BABU BIPIN BEHARI DAS asked :

1042. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Forest be pleased to state the reasons for the necessity of checking Hill Tipperah timbers in the British Forest Checking Offices at Kurma, Kamalganj, Maulvibazar and Monomukh, in the Maulvibazar Subdivision, when the said timbers are duly checked at the Hill Tipperah Forest at Kurma ?

1043. (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that inconvenience and hardships are caused to the timber merchants owing to the delay caused in those different stations in the process of checking, resulting in pecuniary loss to the mercantile community ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to remove these grievances at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1042.—The reasons for the recheck in Sylhet are—

(*a*)—To exchange the certificate of origin for a transit pass under rule 6 at page 69 of the Assam Forest Manual, Volume I.

(*b*)—To see that the forest produce mentioned in the certificate of origin is imported and that substitutions and additions are not made on the way from adjoining forests or drift wood ; and

(*c*)—To see that Tipperah and Assam get their proper dues credited to them from their respective forests.

1043. (*a*)—Government are not aware of any inconvenience or delay.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

Cultivation of Buri Cotton

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

1044. Has the attention of Government been drawn that Buri cotton could be grown with great success in Assam ?

1045.(*a*) Is it a fact that the Rangiya estate in Kamrup district is still cultivating Buri cotton ?

(*b*) If so, with what results ?

1046. Is it a fact (*a*) that cotton cultivation is a paying business ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to open out a few experimental cotton cultivation centres in different rural centres in Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1044.—No.

1045.(*a*) and (*b*)—So far as Government is aware Buri cotton was grown on this estate several years ago but was given up as being unprofitable.

1046.(*a*)—Not in the plains districts.

(*b*)—No. Various experiments have been made in the Assam Valley during the last 20 years and the results have been discouraging.

Number of Dispensaries and Medical Officers in the Province

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMAH asked :

1047.(*a*)—Will Government be pleased to state the number of dispensaries in the Province, district by district and the accommodation of in-door patients in each of the above ?

(*b*) How many new dispensaries were established in rural area during the last decade ?

1048. The number of I.M.S. Civil Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Province district by district ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1047.(*a*)—It is presumed that the hon. member is referring to dispensaries under the medical department and not to dispensaries under the Public Health department. If so, he will find the information he requires in Statement C of the Annual Report on the working of the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in the province of Assam.

(*b*)—Thirty-seven were opened and 4 closed giving a total increase of 33.

1048.—For Civil and Assistant Surgeons the hon. member is referred to the latest Assam Quarterly Civil List and for Sub-Assistant Surgeons to the latest Half-Yearly List of Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Assam Medical Service (Junior), a copy of which will be found in the Library.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(*Laid on members' tables on 24th August 1937*)

Up and Down Mail Train of the Assam-Bengal Railway running between Tinsukia and Gauhati

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BOROOAH asked:

1049. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Editorial column of the *Times of Assam* of 19th June 1937 regarding the inconvenience felt by the public of Dibrugarh about the timing of the Up and Down Mail train of the Assam-Bengal Railway running between Tinsukia and Gauhati and *vice versa* ?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge been drawn to the timing suggested by Dr. Ghose published in the same number of the *Times of Assam* ?

(*c*) Will Government insist on the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities to make a change in the timings to suit the public convenience ?

1050. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Second class in the Assam-Bengal Railway carriages have been abolished and since the abolition the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities provide with Inter Class compartment in through train running between Tinsukia and Gauhati and back ?

(*b*) If so, will Government insist on the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities to provide more accommodation in Inter Class ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1049. (*a*)—Yes, but Government consider the present timings a great improvement on the old ones.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Government cannot insist even if they so desired.

1050. (*a*)—The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, but as regards the second part Government have no information.

(*b*)—The hon. member is advised to move the Railway authorities through the Assembly's representatives on the Assam-Bengal Railway Advisory Committee.

Measures to be adopted for the furtherance of the interests of the depressed classes

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS asked:

1051. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the steps taken by and special privileges granted in Bombay, Punjab, United Provinces, Madras, Behar, Orissa and Central Provinces for the depressed classes towards their educational, economic, social and political advancement as incorporated in the pamphlet known as "what is being done for the depressed classes" ?

(*b*) If the answer to question 1051 (*a*) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to publish in a pamphlet the measures adopted for the furtherance of the interests of the depressed classes similar to those adopted in those provinces ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1051. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—In the circumstances prevailing in this Province, Government do not consider it necessary to take the action proposed.

Number of persons prosecuted and fined by the Forest Department for felling and selling trees

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1052. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of cases in which persons were prosecuted and fined by the Forest Department for felling and selling trees grown in their own lands, district by district and year by year for the last three years in the province ?

(2) The number of Forest coupes or blocks sold or settled in the Assam Valley during the last 5 years, district by district, and year by year, and how many of them were given to the local Assamese people ?

(3) Is it a fact that the blocks or coupes of forests were not always sold to the highest bidder or tenderer ?

(*a*) If not, why ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1052. (1) and (2)—The information can not be given without an immense amount of labour, incommensurate with the results.

(3)—Blocks or coupes are usually settled with the highest bidder unless he is considered undesirable for financial or other reasons.

Monopoly over the Gauhati-Shillong Road

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1053. Is it a fact that the right of monopoly over the Gauhati-Shillong Road reserving the right to issue certain limited permits have been given to the Commercial Carrying Company ?

1054. Will Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) How much did Government realise from the Commercial Carrying Company and by issue of permits separately during the last two years ?

(*b*) What are the terms of the lease and when will it expire ?

1055. Is it a fact that no such right of monopoly is given to any body for the Shillong-Sylhet Road ?

1056. Is it a fact that only one or two companies are regularly running the services between Sylhet and Shillong over this road without paying anything to Government ?

1057. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) who are the proprietors of these companies ? (*b*) What are the reasons for these different treatments of these roads ?

1058. Is it a fact that Government is losing much money on this account ?

1059. Is it for this that the prices of articles imported from Gauhati are higher than those imported from Sylhet ?

1060. Is it not for this that traders and other persons from Gauhati have to suffer more in comparison ?

1061. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the mileage of Gauhati-Shillong Road and as well as of Shillong-Sylhet Road ? (*b*) the rate of fare on each class of tickets per passenger ? (*c*) the rate of freights of parcels, luggage and goods ? All separately on each of the two roads ?

1062. Are Government aware that the people of the Assam Valley are greatly perturbed and dissatisfied with such partial treatments of these roads?

1063. Will Government consider the advisability of throwing both the roads free to the public or restrict the motor Services by issue of leases and permits as in Gauhati-Shillong roads ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1053.—If the hon. member will state his question more explicitly Government will endeavour to answer it.

1054. (*a*)—The amounts realised by Government from the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited, and other permit holders for the last two years were as follows :—

	1935	1936
1. Commercial Carrying Company, Limited	76,000+34,000 =1,10,000	76,000+34,000 =1,10,000
2. Other permit holders	38,250	34,000

(*b*)—The hon. member is referred to replies given to Starred question No.12(*a*) and (*b*) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., at the current session of the Assembly.

1055.—There is no monopoly on the Shillong-Sylhet Road.

1056.—No.

1057 (*a*), (*b*), and 1058.—Does not arise.

1059 and 1060.—Government have no information.

1061. (*a*)—The hon. member is referred to replies given to question Nos. 794 (*i*) and (*iii*) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A., at the current session of the Assembly.

(*b*) and (*c*)—The hon. member is referred to replies given to question Nos. 795 (*a*) and (*b*) asked by Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A. at the current session of the Assembly.

1062.—No.

1063.—Government will consider the matter on the expiry of the present term of the agreement.

Abolition of Seed Depots in each Headquarters station

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1064. Is it a fact that there was a seed depôt in each Headquarters station of the districts of Assam ?

(*a*) Was it not more convenient for the Agriculturists to take seeds therefrom than from the central stations like Gauhati and Jorhat ?

(*b*) Why were these depôts abolished and when ?

1065. Is it a fact that the depôts were abolished with a view to curtail expenses here in order to meet cost of the increased number of officers ?

(*a*) If not, will Government be pleased to re-establish the seed depôts in each district of Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1064.—No. There are Seed Depôts at Gauhati, Jorhat and Sylhet. There were no Seed Depôts at the Headquarters of the Agricultural Inspectors. There are, however, godowns at the headquarters of each Agricultural Inspector as well as in a few places in the interior. Seeds, manure and implements are kept in these godowns so that the cultivators in the interior can readily obtain them.

(*a*)—Does not arise.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1065.—No.

(*a*)—Does not arise.

Temporary Criminal Court at Nalbari

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1066. Will the Hon'ble Minister incharge of the Judicial Department state if it is a fact that a temporary Criminal Court sits at Nalbari for 3 to 4 days in a week and that it is causing great hardship—

(*a*) to the litigant public as they cannot obtain proper legal help there and have to obtain it from Gauhati at great expense and inconvenience ?

(*b*) to the under-trial prisoners sent from Gauhati *Hajat* as they cannot get proper food and lodging at Nalbari, and

(*c*) to the pleaders and clerks attending the Court, who are put to great inconvenience for want of suitable place for lodging ?

1067. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) If there is any quarter at Nalbari for the Magistrate deputed ?

(*b*) If not, where does he put up while at Nalbari ?

(*c*) If it is a fact that he has to stay in a tent mostly ?

(*d*) How many times in a week he has to travel to Nalbari from Gauhati ?

(*e*) What travelling allowances are paid weekly on average to the said Magistrate and the Court Sub-Inspector who attend the Court ?

1068. Do Government propose to discontinue the said temporary Court ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1066.—The temporary Court ordinarily sits for two or three days a week, or more if necessity arises.

(*a*)—No. Since pleaders attend the Nalbari Court from Gauhati, and may be engaged at Nalbari ; and parties save money by not having to go with their witnesses to Gauhati.

(*b*)—The under-trial prisoners are accommodated in the Thana lock-up and are fed as well as the scale of diet allowance permits. Instructions have been issued to the effect that in serious cases where bail is not granted the trial should be held at Gauhati.

(*c*)—There may be some inconvenience at present. But there are Hotels and their number will increase with the demand, and the homes of a number of pleaders are near Nalbari.

1067.(*a*)—There is none.

(*b*) and (*c*)—At the Inspection Bungalow in the rainy season and in a tent in the Inspection Bungalow compound in the dry season.

(*d*)—Once a week ordinarily.

(*e*)—The Magistrate gets about Rs.15 and the Court Sub-Inspector about Rs.8-7 a week.

1068.—Government see no reason at present to discontinue the Court as there seems to be a great public demand for its continuance.

Damages to Government and private building by the recent storm in the Dhubri Subdivision

MAULAVI GHYASUDDIN AHMED asked :

1069.(*a*) Is it a fact that many private buildings and huts and several Local Board schools in the rural area were blown away by the recent storm in the Dhubri Subdivision and if so, (*b*) will Government be pleased to state how many Local Board school buildings were blown away by the said storm ?

1070. Do the Government propose to make provision in the budget for the year 1937-38 for an extra grant for education under the Dhubri Local Board to meet the unforeseen charges for the reconstruction of the school buildings damaged by recent storm ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1069.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—19 Local Board school buildings were badly damaged.

1070.—No provision has been made in the budget for the purpose. It is open to the Board to apply to Government for a special grant.

Recruitment to Assam School Service

BABU AKSHAY KUMAR DAS asked :

1071. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge state whether Government have passed orders "that no candidates particularly from the Scheduled Castes or Tribal people should be permanently recruited to the Assam School Service before they have rendered 2 or 3 years officiating service and thus gained dependable experience " ?

1072. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister state whether there is any particular reason for making such distinction and for continuing it ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1071.—Yes. Such an order was passed by the late Government but the hon. member has omitted part of the sentence which is as follows "While Government are desirous of removing the under-representation of any community in Government service they consider that no candidates particularly from the Scheduled Castes or Tribal people should be permanently recruited to the Assam School Service before they have rendered 2 or 3 years officiating service and thus gained dependable experience ".

1072.—The distinction was made because the late Government considered that certain candidates from the Scheduled Castes had been appointed permanently before they had acquired sufficient experience. The present Government realize that the order is capable of being interpreted as an unfair distinction and will take steps to cancel the words "particularly from the Scheduled castes or tribal people".

Exclusion of Barpeta Subdivision from the list of Ideal Village Scheme

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1073. Will Government be pleased to state why Barpeta Subdivision has been excluded from the list of Ideal Village Scheme ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1073.—No decision has yet been reached as to where the Model villages will be located.

Reconstitution of the Roha Village Authority

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1074. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Local Self-Government be pleased to state :

(1) On whose suggestion and recommendation the Roha Village Authority has been reconstituted ?

(2) The date on which the election of members of the said Authority were held ? Whether the opinion of the Local Board and the people was ascertained before reconstitution of the Authority ?

(3) If so, when and how ? If not, why not ?

1075. Is Government aware that the people concerned submitted a largely signed petition to the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, on 18th February 1935 and a memorial to His Excellency the Governor, the receipt of which was acknowledged on 1st March 1935 against the proposed reconstitution of the Village Authority at Roha ?

1076. Will Government be pleased to state about the fate of the application and memorial ?

1077. Is it a fact that in spite of public opinion and a resolution of the Roha Ryot Sabha to the contrary the Authority has been imposed upon the people ?

1078. Is it a fact that after the constitution of the Authority against the will of the people a special sitting of the Roha Ryot Sabha attended by about 500 leading men of the locality was held on 9th August 1936 and that it unanimously passed a resolution against the imposition of the Authority and that the resolution was duly forwarded to the authorities including the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government ?

1079. Is it a fact that people of Roha headed by one Kanuram Raja also submitted a petition to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, on 11th August 1936, complaining against the reconstitution and composition of the Authority ?

1080. Is it a fact that a deputation of the representatives of the people also waited upon the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, on 9th September 1936 to lay their grievances against the reconstitution, composition and election of members of the Authority and that the Deputy Commissioner expressed his unwillingness to interfere in the matter ?

1081. Is it a fact that Srijut Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Secretary of the Roha Ryot Sabha, again drew the attention of the Governor and the Minister of Local Self-Government by petitions, dated 30th September, 1936, protesting against the reconstitution of the Authority ?

1082. Will Government be pleased to state the fate and result of all the petitions and the resolutions of the Roha Ryot Sabha ?

1083. Is it a fact that people of Roha did not take part in the election of members to the Authority with the result that young men of unripe experience who were proposers and seconders of one another got them elected without contest ?

1084. Is it a fact that irregularities in election of the members were duly brought to the notice of the authorities including the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division ?

1085. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the irregularities complained of were enquired into ?

1086. Is Government aware that the people of Roha also brought allegations against Srijut Golock Chandra Kataki, the Chairman of the Authority, to the following effect :—

(*a*) That he is a veritable tout living on litigation of others ?

(*b*) That he has got a very bad record in the register of Police Station, Roha ?

(*c*) That he is a dismissed police constable ?

1087. Will Government be pleased to enquire into those allegations and remove him from the office if they are substantiated on enquiry ?

1088. Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of suspending the Authority and taking a referendum of the people concerned to ascertain their views for or against the reconstitution of the same ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1074.(1)—On the recommendations of the local officers. The proposal was initiated by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Roha, who is an organiser under the rules under the Rural Self-Government Act.

(2)—15th July 1937. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(3)—The organiser consulted the leading persons of the village and the Local Board was consulted by the Deputy Commissioner officially.

1075.—Yes.

1076.—The memorial was returned to the memorialist for presentation through the correct channel. As regards the petition presented to the Deputy Commissioner it is reported that the hon. member approached the Deputy Commissioner with a deputation from the petitioners and that after the Deputy Commissioner had explained the whole matter verbally the deputation went away satisfied.

1077.—No. The establishment of a Village Authority was suggested by an overwhelming majority. The opposition came from those who failed to secure election.

1078.—A resolution was passed and forwarded but Government have no information as to the number of persons present. A cross petition largely signed was also received by the Deputy Commissioner.

1079.—Yes.

1080.—The hon. member is referred to the reply to question 1076 above.

1081.—Yes.

1082.—The petitions and rosolutions had no result.

1083.—The answer is in the negative.

1084.—Government understand that there was a petition alleging certain irregularities.

1085.—On enquiry it transpired that the election was held in accordance with the rules and that there was no irregularity.

1086.—It is reported that certain people have made various allegations against him.

1087.—Government see no reason to order an enquiry. The Deputy Commissioner has reported that the allegations have no substance.

1088.—No. The Village Authority is reported to be running smoothly and taking a keen interest in village development.

Title Classes in the Sylhet Government Madrasa

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

1089. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that Government proposes to open in near future "Title Classes" in the Sylhet Government Madrasa ?

1090. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any scheme for this has been drawn up ?

1091. If the answer to question No.1090 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the scheme together with the estimated cost both recurring and non-recurring ?

1092. Will Government be pleased to state how many students from the Assam province have passed the Title Course Examination from the Calcutta Madrasa during the last 10 years ?

1093. Will Government please state how many of them were granted stipends by the Government of Assam and what was the amount spent for them every year during the last 10 years ?

1094. Will Government please state how many Fakhrul Muhaddisins or Mumtazul Muhaddisins (*i*) with or (*ii*) without any knowledge in English have been provided with service by the Government of Assam ? [(*i*) with and (*ii*) without knowledge in English should be shown separately.]

1095. Will Government please state whether they have seen the paragraph published under caption " Calcutta Madrasa Demand for enquiry into its working " in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated 8th July 1937 ?

1096. If so, do Government propose to enquire into the workings and the syllabus of the Sylhet Government Madrasa in the lines suggested in the paragraph mentioned above ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1089.—Yes.

1090 & 1091.—Yes, the hon. member will find the details of the scheme at page 89 of the Budget Memorandum.

1092.—The information is not available.

1093.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the amount spent during the last 10 years in connection with the award of senior Madrasa Scholarships tenable in the Title Classes of the Calcutta Madrasa

Year	No. of scholarships awarded	Value of scholarships	Period of tenure	Total expenditure for the year Rs.
1927-28	2 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 3 years	1,080
1928-29	2 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 3 years	1,080
1929-30	2 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 3 years	1,080
1930-31	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,230
1931-32	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,410
1932-33	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,140
1933-34	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,080
1934-35	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,080
1935-36	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,080
1936-37	3 Scholarships	@ Rs. 15	for 2 years	1,080

1094.—Government have no definite information. There are at least two English-knowing Fakhrul Muhaddisins in the Education Department.

1095 & 1096.—Government have examined the issue of the paper of the date referred to but cannot find any such paragraph.

Percentage of free-studentships allowed to the boys of the Muhammadan Community

SRIJUT JOGESCHANDRA GOHAIN asked :

1097. Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of free studentship allowed (*a*) to the boys of the Muhammadan Community, (*b*) to the boys of the Ahom Community and (*c*) to the boys of the Hindu Community other than Ahoms, in Government High Schools of the Assam Valley Division and the principle on which these percentages are fixed ?

1098. (*a*) Is it a fact that under the rules of the Assam School Manual any number of Ahom boys could be awarded Ahom free-studentships on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner ?

(*b*) If so, what led Government to change the above rule ?

(*c*) Did the Ahom Community protest against this change ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to reconsider the matter now ?

(*e*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1097. (*a*) and (*c*).—Under the rules fee remissions are not ordinarily to exceed 13 per cent. of the number of pupils on the rolls, 8 per cent. being reserved for Muhammadans and 5 per cent. for others.

(*b*)—Fifteen per cent. of the enrolment of Ahom pupils.

The principle in fixing the percentages was the educational backwardness of the different communities.

1098. (*a*)—Yes, but the rule has since been changed.

(*b*)—It was found that in the Dibrugarh High School the proportion of exemption had risen to over 40 per cent. of the Ahom enrolment and it was considered that this was excessive.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—No.

(*e*)—Because the present rule is considered to be quite fair.

Grievances of the All-Assam Conference of the teachers of Government Aided High Schools

SRIJUT BHUBAN CHANDRA GOGOI asked :

1099. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the representation of the grievances by the All-Assam conference of the teachers of Government Aided High Schools ?

1100. Will Government be pleased to state what redress they propose to ameliorate their grievances ?

1101. Do Government propose to appoint a mixed committee consisting of Officials and Non-Officials to enquire into the genuineness or otherwise of their grievances ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1099.—Yes.

1100.—The hon. member will see from page 87 of the Budget Memorandum that an additional grant of Rs.40,000 a year is proposed to be made to non-Government secondary schools of which Rs.20,000 will be made this year. This additional grant should allow some of the schools to increase their teachers' salaries.

1101. There is no need for a Committee as Government are fully aware of the condition of the teachers.

Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA asked :

1102. Is it a fact that there is no qualified mistress to teach Sanskrit in the Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School ?

1103. Is it a fact that there is complaint of the students of the said Girls' School suffering for the want of a properly qualified Sanskrit mistress ?

1104. Do Government propose to make proper arrangements for teaching Sanskrit in that school by a qualified mistress ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1102.—Yes.

1103.—Yes.

1104.—The matter was considered by the late Government but the post was not sanctioned in view of the necessity for economy. The present Government will consider the matter in connection with next year's budget.

Patiapathar Road passing through the tea gardens of the Badlipara Tea Company, Limited

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1105. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) whether there is a road called the Patiapathar road passing through the tea gardens of the Badlipara Tea Company, Limited ?

(*b*) Whether this road existed from time immemorial in shape of foot path before the said tea gardens came into existence ?

(*c*) Whether this is the only road for the villagers of Patiapathar and other villages near by to come to the Local Board or Public Works Department roads ?

(*d*) Whether any application by the member of the Local Board Constituency or by *raiyots* was made regarding the closing of the road by the Tea Garden managers ?

1106. Will Government be pleased to call for the reports of the Sub-divisional Officer who inspected this road and lay the same on the table ?

1107. Do Government propose to ask the managers concerned to keep the road open without closing it by gates for the free ingress and egress of the people ?

1108. Do Government propose to ask the Local Board authorities to take up this road immediately ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1105. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—It is reported that a foot path was in existence before the opening of the tea garden.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—Yes.

1106.—Government are not prepared to lay copies of official correspondence on the table.

1107.—The matter had already formed the subject of negotiation between the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, the Manager and the Board, and in April last the Board passed a resolution regretting that it could not take up the road on the conditions laid down by the Garden authorities. It appears that these conditions were that the road should be double fenced and gated at the expense of the Board. The matter of asking the Managers will be considered by Government.

1108.—No. The matter is entirely one for the Local Board to deal with.

Introduction of Assamese as the medium of Instruction and Examination in the High Schools of the Assam Valley

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

1109. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the correspondence between the Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University and the President of the Assamese Students' Welfare League, Calcutta, published in "Dainik Batori" of 24th June 1937 ?

1110. Do Government propose to introduce Assamese as the medium of instruction and Examination in the High Schools of the Assam Valley from 1938 ?

1111. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, is connected in any way with the Text Book Committee of the University ?

1112. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction of Assam has recommended to the Calcutta University to accept Assamese as the medium of instruction and Examination in the High Schools of the Assam Valley ?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place on the table the recommendations made by the Director of Public Instruction ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1109.—Yes.

1110.—Yes, as soon as suitable Assamese text books have been published and approved by the University.

1111.—No.

1112. (*a*)—The Director of Public Instruction recommended to Government that Assamese should be the medium of instruction in all the High Schools of the Assam Valley except the Dhubri High School and the Aided Bengali High Schools at Gauhati, Tezpur and Dibrugarh.

(*b*)—Government do not propose to lay official correspondence of this nature on the table.

Non-existence of Madrassa in Lakhai Thana

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY asked:

1113. Is it a fact that not a single madrassa is in existence in the whole area of Lakhai thana, Sylhet ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1113.—No.

Three High Schools at Chattian, Andiura and Jagadishpur in Sylhet

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHUADHURY asked:

1114. Is it a fact that there are 3 High English Schools at Chattian, Andiura and Jagadishpur within the police station Madhabpur, Sylhet ?

1115. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any grant has been extended to any of these High Schools ?

(*b*) If not, do Government propose to extend grant to these High Schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1114.—Yes.
1115. (*a*)—No.
(*b*)—A provision has been made in the current year's budget for bringing more schools on the aided list and the case of these three schools will be considered.

Mahendra Nath Hindu Vidyalaya, Maulvibazar.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1116. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state if he has got any representation from the Mahendra Nath Hindu Vidyalaya, Maulvibazar, praying for departmental recognition and grant-in-aid ?
1117. If so, will Government be pleased to state how the position stands at present ?
1118. Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction visited this School and the Kashinath Middle English School on the 1st week of July and supported the proposal of an amalgamation of both these Schools for which the authorities of the Hindu Vidyalaya also expressed their willingness ?
1119. If so, do Government propose to take early steps to give effect to the proposal of amalgamation and grant-in-aid and recognition to the combined institution ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1116.—No.
1117.—Does not arise.
1118 —Yes.
1119.—The matter will be considered in due course.

Karimganj Public High School

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1120. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state if any representation has been received from the Karimganj Public High School praying for departmental recognition ?
1121. If so, whether any decision has been made on the subject ?
1122. If not, do Government propose to expedite the matter and grant early recognition to the School ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :
1120.—No.
1121. Does not arise.
1122.—The question of recognition cannot be considered until the school authorities submit a formal application.

Basis of fixing the number of Scholarships for I.A. and I.Sc. Students

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1123. (*a*) What is the total number of Matriculation scholarships available for I.A. and I.Sc. students, what are their classifications and the basis of their distribution ?

(*b*) What is the basis of fixing the number of scholarships for each of the above classes ?

(*c*) What is the number of Matriculation scholarships of all descriptions awarded to Muhammadan students of (*i*) Assam Valley and (*ii*) Surma Valley respectively during the years from 1933-34 to 1937-38 ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

1123. (*a*)—The hon. member will find the necessary information at pages 268-280 of the Assam Education Department Rules and Orders.

(*b*)—The question is not understood.

(*c*)—A statement is laid on the table.

	Competitive		Special Muhammadan		Silver Jubilee	
	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley	Assam Valley	Surma Valley
1933	3	4	4	21		
1934	2	3	6	19		
1935	2	3	6	19	1	1
1936	2	4	2	23		
1937	2	4	5	20		
Total ...	11	18	23	102	1	1

Provision of a play-ground for the Barpeta Government High School

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1124. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state :—

(*i*) Whether the Barpeta Government High School has no suitable play-ground ?

(*ii*) Whether the only play-ground adjoining the school is much smaller than even a minimum foot-ball ground ?

(*iii*) Whether the school compound is congested and requires expansion ?

(*iv*) Whether there is a big pit to the south in the school compound which remains water-logged for the most part of the year, covered with water-hyacinth and is a breeding ground of mosquitoes ?

(*v*) Whether to remove this pit nuisance, the congestion of the compound and to provide a suitable play-ground, the pit requires to be filled up ?

(*vi*) Whether the necessity of the pit being filled up was admitted by Government as far back as 1927 ?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to have the pit filled up immediately ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1124. (*a*) (*i*)—Yes.
(*ii*)—Yes.
(*iii*)—Yes.
(*iv*)—Yes.
(*v*)—Yes.
(*vi*)—Plans were approved for raising the compound in 1914. The final estimate of cost was Rs.32,000, and more than Rs.18,000 has already been spent. It has not been possible to provide funds to complete the work.

(*b*)—The matter will be considered by this Government.

Maximum rate of interest given to depositors in the Provincial Co-operative and Town Banks.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1125. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Department be pleased to state—(*a*) the maximum rate of interest given to depositors in the Provincial Co-operative and Town Banks ?

(*b*) The maximum rate of interest charged by the Provincial Bank upon the Central Co-operative and Town Banks ?

(*c*) The maximum rate of interest charged by the Central Co-operative Banks upon Rural Co-operative Banks ?

(*d*) The maximum rate of interest charged by the Town Banks upon the debtors ?

(*e*) The maximum rate of interest charged by the Rural Co-operative Banks upon their member debtors ?

1126. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operative Department be pleased to state whether the provisions of the Assam Money Lender's Act, 1934, are applicable to Provincial, Central, and Rural Co-operative Banks and Town Banks ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1125.(*a*)—The maximum rate of interest given by the Provincial Bank is 4 per cent. per annum and by Town Banks 7½ per cent.

(*b*)—6 per cent. per annum.

(*c*)—Different Central Banks charge interest at different rates. The rates vary from 9 per cent. to 11 per cent.

(*d*)—12½ per cent. per annum.

(*e*)—18¾ per cent.

1126.—Yes.

Teaching of Islamic subjects in Silchar Normal School

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOWDHURI asked :

1127. Is it a fact that there is no arrangement for teaching Islamic subjects in Silchar Normal School and Sanskrit is forced upon the Muslim boys instead ?

1128. If so, do Government propose to remove the grievance of the Muslim community by appointing an Islamic teacher in that school ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1127.—There is no arrangement for teaching Islamic subjects but an honorarium of Rs.100 yearly is paid for giving religious instruction to Muslim students there. There can be no question of forcing Sanskrit on Muslim boys as that language is optional with Advanced Vernacular Language and literature.

1128.—An Islamic teacher is not needed in a Normal School, but the question will be examined.

Number of Posts in the Assam School Service

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOWDHURI asked :

1129. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of posts severally in each of the cadres of Class I, Class II and Class III of the Assam School Service as well as in Assam Lower School Service, valley by valley, and how many of such posts are at present being held by the Muslims ?

1130. Will Government be pleased to state whether the requisite percentage towards proportionate Muslim representation in these services has already been secured ?

1131 If not, will Government be pleased to state if they have of late adopted any policy to recruit Scheduled caste Hindu candidates in preference to Muslims in filling up vacancies in these services ?

1132. Will Government be pleased to enlighten the House as to (*a*) standard of promotion to Class I and Class II of the Assam School Service ; and

(*b*) whether the criterion of seniority is always strictly adhered to ?

1133. Do Government propose in case of promotion to Class I and Class II of the Assam School Service to make consideration of under-represented communities as well ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1129.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the total number of posts in different cadres of the Assam School Service as well as in the Assam Lower School Service

	Assam School Service						Assam Lower School Service	
	Number of posts in Class I	Number of posts held by Muslims in Class I.	Number of posts in Class II	Number of posts held by Muslims in Class II	Number of posts in Class III	Number of posts held by Muslims in Class III	Number of posts	Number of posts held by Muslims
Assam Valley Division ...	26	4	13	2	179+1 vacant	38	182	32
Surma Valley and Hill Division	18+1 vacant	4	9+1 vacant	Nil	161+2 vacant	76 (inclusive of 2 Muhammadans not native of the province).	96+2 vacant	25

1130.—Muslims are adequately represented in Class III of the Assam School Service but not in Class I or II.

1131.—No.

1132. (*a*)—Seniority and merit.

(*b*)—Seniority is not the only criterion, so the question does not arise.

1133.—There are many advantages in the present system which has been in force for a long time and is reported to have worked well but the present Government will examine the whole position again.

Subsidy to the Calcutta University

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1134. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If any amount is paid as a subsidy to the Calcutta University by the Government ?

(*c*) What is the number of members from Assam in both the Senate and the Syndicate of the Calcutta University ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1134. (*a*)—Yes. In 1934 the University represented that an average sum of Rs. 2,370 a year was paid by the University on meeting the Travelling Allowance of Fellows from Assam and asked the Local Government to consider the question of sanctioning a suitable annual grant to help the University in maintaining the Fellow Travelling Allowance Fund. As a result of this representation the late Government decided to make an annual grant on the basis of the previous year's actuals subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000 a year.

(*c*)—In the Senate there are 8 Fellows from Assam, in the Syndicate none.

Rabid dog biting cases in Tezpur

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1135. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical Department be pleased to state—(*a*) Whether there were several rabid dog biting cases (men and cattle) in village Purbatia, Tezpur, in the month of May or June last ?

(*b*) Whether those cases were treated at the Tezpur hospital ?

(*c*) Whether two of these patients were schoolboys who got relapse after 14 days and died ?

(*d*) Whether out of these two patients who got the first relapse one was refused any treatment by the Assistant Surgeon when the patient was taken to him saying "we have no other medicine, you may go in for Assamese drugs" ?

(*e*) Whether the guardian of the patient represented the matter to the Civil Surgeon, who, however, called the patient to the hospital ?

(*f*) Whether (*i*) when the patient was taken to the hospital no treatment was available as the Civil Surgeon was absent then and (*ii*) after his return home the poor boy succumbed to death ?

(*g*) Whether the Civil Surgeon instructed the Assistant Surgeon or himself made any arrangement about the treatment of the said patient after he received the application from the guardian which he replied and asked him to get the patient to the hospital ?

(*h*) Whether the Civil Surgeon took any step against the Assistant Surgeon who thus first refused any treatment ?

(*i*) Whether the Civil Surgeon made any enquiry about the cause of relapse of these two cases ?

(*j*) Whether he examined the Antirabic injections before they were applied to the patients or during the course of treatment about their efficacy and genuineness ?

(*k*) Whether the Public Health Officer, Tezpur, took any notice of the cattle bitten by the rabid dog ? How they were disposed of after death ?

(*l*) Whether the officer instructed the innocent villagers about the method of disposing of the carcasses thus infected ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1135.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Three boys were treated at the Tezpur hospital. All completed treatment.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—This is not a fact.

(*e*)—Yes.

(*f*)—The patient was brought to the hospital at 3 p.m. on 5th June 1937 and was seen by the Assistant Surgeon. The patient at that time showed symptoms of Hydrophobia. The guardian refused to keep the boy in the hospital for treatment. It came to the knowledge of the Assistant Surgeon on the following day that the boy had died at home.

(*g*)—The Civil Surgeon received a note on 5th June 1937 and sent it and the bearer to the Assistant Surgeon, but the guardian refused to keep the patient at the hospital for treatment.

(*h*)—The Assistant Surgeon did not refuse any treatment.

(*i*)—No enquiry was considered necessary. A certain percentage of cases develop Hydrophobia even after completion of full treatment especially when the bite by a rabid animal is in the upper part of the body. In this case the bite was deep and extensive and on the upper extremity.

(*j*)—All the ampoules for injection are examined before commencement of treatment and during the course. No suspicious or out-of-date ampoule is used. All such precautions were taken in this case also.

(*k*)—No. Purbatia is outside this officer's jurisdiction.

(*l*)—Does not arise.

Introduction of Spinning in the Gauhati Weaving Institute

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1136. Will Government be pleased to state if spinning can be introduced in the Gauhati Weaving Institute by deputing at least two passed students to different centres of spinning by granting stipends ?

1137. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the function of the Managing Committee of this Institute ?

(*b*) Is the Committee consulted in carrying out the general policy and programme of this Institute ?

(*c*) Will Government please state whether a certain percentage in the Managing Committee can be taken up from amongst the passed students who live near Gauhati and are engaged in independent business ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1136.—Cotton as well as *endi* spinning are subjects in the curriculum for the elementary course of the Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati.

1137.(*a*)—The main function of the Committee is the general control of the Institute including the admission of pupils, award of stipends, etc.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—There is nothing to prevent a passed student living near Gauhati from being nominated as a member of the Committee. Government do not consider it either necessary or desirable to fix a percentage.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 25th August 1937)

Number of school-going children in Tea Estates

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1138. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of school-going children in the tea estates of (1) the Assam Valley and (2) the Surma Valley ?

(*b*) the steps taken by Government for education of these children ?

1139. Will Government be pleased to state the number of schools opened within the tea garden areas in each district of the Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1138.(*a*)—Number of school-going children on the 31st March 1937 :—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Assam Valley	1,513	248	1,761
Surma Valley	1,643	156	1,799

(*b*)—There are three classes of primary schools for the education of the children of the tea garden labourers, *viz.*—

A class.—Government primary schools, maintained on or near tea gardens.

B class.—Schools maintained by garden managers with the help of a monthly grant from provincial funds.

C class.—Schools maintained entirely by garden managers.

The hon. member will see from pages 88-89 of the Budget Memorandum that funds have been provided this year for increasing the number of B class schools and for the conversion of a B class school into an A class school.

1139.—The number of all classes of schools in each district of the Assam Valley on the 31st March 1937 was as follows :—

Sibsagar	29
Lakhimpur	15
Darrang	9
Goalpara	4
Kamrup	Nil
Nowgong	Nil
Total ...	57

Number of labourers working on the Railways of Assam

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1140. Will Government be pleased to enquire and state the total number of labourers working on the Railways of Assam under each of the following heads—

(1) Labour employed in the Engineering Department on the maintenance of the permanent way.

(2) Labour employed in the transportation and commercial departments including stations, running and shed staffs.

(3) Labour employed in the workshops of the mechanical departments.

1141.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state (1) the number of gazetted officers (2) the number of subordinates drawing Rs.250 per month and over, and (3) the number of subordinates drawing less than Rs.250 per month working the Railways of Assam ?

(*b*) The number of Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Indians, men of the Assam Valley and men of the Surma Valley in each of the above heads ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1140—1141.(*b*)—Statements giving the information as furnished by various railways are placed on the Library table.

Amount of Agricultural Loans issued to the distressed people of Cachar after the flood of 1929

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA asked :

1142. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(1) the actual amount of agricultural loans issued to the distressed people of Cachar after the flood of 1929 ?

(2) the total amount realised up till now as (*i*) principal and (*ii*) as interest ?

(3) the total amount realized only by attachment of cattle ?

(4) the total amount realized by attachment and sale of cattle ?

(5) the total amount realized by attachment of moveables other than cattle ?

(6) the total amount realized by sale of moveables other than cattle ?

(7) the total amount realized by enforcement of joint liability from debtors other than actual defaulters ?

(8) the number of actual defaulters who died before the payment of their debts and whose dues have been realized from others ?

(9) the total amount realized by such method as in (8)?

(10) the number of actual defaulters who have left the district and are untraced ?

(11) the total amount realised out of their dues to Government from other debtors ?

(12) the total number of cattle sold for the realisation of agricultural loan ?

(13) the total number of cases, if any, in which enquiry was held to ascertain if the cattle attached were plough cattle ?

(14) if any account of the petitions filed before the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, or other loan officers was maintained jointly or separately ?

(15) if so, the total number of petitions stamped and petitions unstamped ?

(16) the total amount of income received by Government under this head (*i.e.*, for Court-fee and paper)?

(17) if it is a fact that debtors should complain in the said petitions about the seizure of their plough cattle ?

(18) the amount of expenditure incurred by Government year by year since the commencement of realisation operations ?

(19) the total amount of interest due on the entire loan issued and still outstanding ?

(20) the total amount of process fee realised so far ?

(21) the total number of claim petitions filed ?

(22) the number of petitions on which enquiry was held ?

(23) the number of cases in which claims were allowed ?

(24) if Government are aware that crops have failed in Cachar in the present year due to prolonged drought ?

(25) if Government are aware that floods in Sonai circle, Udharbund pargana and elsewhere have carried away what little crop was grown in the district ?

(26) if Government are aware of cattle epidemic all over the district which has added considerably to the difficulties of the agriculturists this year.

(27) if it is a fact that practically the entire population in Cachar relies upon agriculture as their only means of subsistence.

(28) if in view of the condition of the agriculturists Government propose to wipe out arrears of Government loan.

(29) the total amount of loan issued in Sylhet (*i*) the total amount of principal, (*ii*) the total amount of interest realised.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1142. (1), (2), (20) and (28)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to the question No. 1 asked by Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar in the current session of the Assembly.

(3) to (18) and (21) to (23)—The information is not available in the Secretariat and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour incommensurate with the result.

(19)—Interest due on 30th June 1936 was Rs.9,661.

(24)—No. The latest report of the Commissioner states that though rainfall was deficient in the beginning, it is now sufficient and the condition of the standing crop is fair.

(25)—Government have received no information on this point.

(26)—The Commissioner's report is to the effect that there has been much cattle disease but the mortality is small.

(27)—Yes.

(29)—The question is vague as the hon. member has not stated the year for which he requires the figures.

Improvement of the road connecting Chattian station with Murakari and Fandhauk

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked:

1143.(*a*) Do Government propose to collect information about the volumes of business in exports that are carried from the Mukam Fandhauk Murakari (two business centres) to different parts through the Chattian railway station ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to improve the road that connects Chattian station to the Murakari and Fandhauk ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1143.(*a*) and (*b*)—Neither Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner nor Local Board considered that the traffic on the road justified its inclusion in the new programme of works. In the circumstances Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Improvement of the road connecting Habiganj town with Police station Lakhai

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked:

1144.(*a*) Is it a fact that the only road that connects the town of Habiganj with the Police station of Lakhai requires immediate development ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that even in winter season the road is not fit for cycle use ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to develop the road out of the Road Board Allocation ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

1144.(*a*)—It requires to be improved.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—The reply is in the negative.

Lower Assam Trunk Road between the 49th and the 51st miles

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1145. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) How many bridges, culverts and other water passages there were on the Lower Assam Trunk Road between the 49th and the 51st miles ten years ago ?

(*b*) Whether the aforesaid bridges etc., were closed up ?

(*c*) If so, how many and when ?

(*d*) The number of breaches that occurred on the road between 47th and 51st miles in 1929 and 1934 ?

1146. Is it a fact that breaches accur every year on the same part of the said road although there are no high floods ?

1147. Is it a fact that such breaches occur on account of lack of sufficient water passages ?

1148. Is it a fact that lack of water ways, high level of the road its strong construction and the narrowness of the bridge are calculated to cause the river to overflood before it can pass through the bridge, and thereby to cause immense distress to the people living in the area between the diversion road and the Kapili river and the people living on the south bank of the river ?

1149. Are Government aware :—

(*a*) that the deep canal with steep banks dug for the construction of the road has been extended right up to the village Dharamtul (South) ?

(*b*) that one child was drowned in it some days ago ?

1150. Will Government consider the desirability of fencing the canal for the protection of the children and the cattle of the village ?

1151. Is it a fact that the lands acquired for the construction of the diversion road were under valued ?

(*a*) Is it a fact that complaints were made by owners of lands so acquired to the effect ?

1152. Is it a fact that the owners of land so acquired have not been as yet paid for their lands ?

1153. Is it a fact that the Government has been deferring payment from day to day inspite of the land owners demanding it ?

1154. Are Government aware that such land owners are mostly agriculturists and delay in payment has entailed great hardship on them ?

1155. Is it a fact that the boulder pitching on the Assam Trunk Road at the 50th and 51st miles has not been completed as yet ?

(*a*) If so, why ?

1156. Is it a fact that this inability or delay to complete the boulder pitching work on the said road frustrates Government's own plan of work when there is danger of floods at any moment during the rains this year ?

1157. Have Government considered the possibility of a sudden flood causing immense loss of public money for the road being incompleted with boulder pitching, or having no sufficient water-ways on it might be washed off or breached at several points, as before ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1145.(*a*)—The bridge registers do not show that any bridge existed on the Assam Trunk Road between the 49th and 51st miles ten years ago.

(*b*) and (*c*)—Do not arise.

(*d*)—Twelve breaches in 1929 and 19 breaches in 1934.

1146.—Breaches occur only during extraordinarily high floods.

1147.—No.

1148.—No.

1149.(*a*)—Borrow pits extend to near the village where they are 1' to 1½' deep.

(*b*)—Yes.

1150.—No. This is neither feasible nor necessary. The borrow pits are submerged during the rains and between the borrow pits and the village there is a deeper channel.

1151.—No. The Deputy Commissioner who was consulted reports that the rates were very fair and the land owners also admitted this.

(*a*)—No.

1152.—It is understood that payment was made on 9th August 1937 in accordance with the necessary procedure under the Land Acquisition Act.

1153.—No. The 9th day of August 1937 was fixed for receiving payments.

1154.—Reply to first part 'Yes' and to second part 'No'.

1155.(*a*)—Boulder pitching in 51st mile was completed by the 11th June and in the 50th mile by 11th July 1937 to the extent boulders could be collected. Extraction of boulders was held up for several weeks at a time due to rain in February and May last and the contractor was unable to supply the requisite quantity of boulders.

1156.—It delayed the completion of the work.

1157.—All serious floods cause damage and to consider hypothetical cases would serve no useful purpose.

Aids to the released Jail convicts

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1158. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) If Committees were formed a few years ago under the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers in every towns of Assam, with a view to render possible aids to the released jail convicts ?

(*b*) If so, how these Committees are serving the *ex*-convicts, and how far they have been successful in their enterprise ?

1159.(*a*)—Is there any provision for training up the ordinary convicts in jails as skilled labours in some professional handicrafts according to their natural aptitudes, besides oil-pressing, Gardening, Husking, and cooking, etc., the common way of employing the convicts at present ?

1160. Does a convict obtain a certificate of proficiency as skilled labour and of reformation of his conduct and of dealings at the time of release from jail ?

1161. *(a)* In what capacities the convict labours are employed by the Public Works Department and other Contractors and what is their number in each district since 1936 ?

1162. Is it a fact that persons with their previous knowledge in some technical lines who are convicted and convicts who got training as skilled labour in jails after their release, do not get employment and support from the public for want of confidence in many places, and thus are compelled indirectly to resort to bad livelihood ?

1163. (*a*) If the answer is in the affirmative do Government propose to consider the desirability of employing *ex*-convicts skilled labours on the lines suggested by Srijut Girish Chandra Barua, Public Works Department Contractor, in the *Batari* of 21st May, 1937, under the caption " Garkaptani bibhagar Meramati ", and by Srijut Mahat Ram Das in the Bi-Weekly *Assamiya* of 29th June 1937, under the heading "Thikar kam Bitaran Samparke " and to direct the Public Works Department Contractors particularly to employ such *ex*-convicts skilled labours to work under them permanently when asked by the Deputy Commissioner concerned through the Executive Engineer ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1158. (*a*)—Committees have been formed since the end of 1934 in Silchar, Nowgong, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Gauhati, North Lakhimpur and Sylhet.

(*b*)—A small beginning has been made. Thus, the Society gave sums varying from Rs.10 to Rs.138 to four discharged prisoners to enable them to resume their professional occupations and Rs.50 to one for constructing a house for himself. They were also instrumental in securing a post for an adolescent discharged prisoner and gave assistance otherwise to two other prisoners. For details the hon. member may see the section entitled " Work during the year " at pages 4 to 6 of the Society's Annual Report for 1935 and paragraph 22 of the Jail Administration Report for 1936, copies of which are on the Library table.

1159. (*a*)—Yes. The hon. member is referred to rules 407, 410, 411 and 413 of the Assam Jail Manual, Volume I.

1160.—No.

1161. (*a*)—Government have no information.

1162.—Government have no definite information but believe that facts are as stated by the hon. member.

1163. (*a*)—Government will consider this.

Morikullong Stream of Nowgong District

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1164. Are Government aware that green logs of wood and timbers are steeped in the Murikullong of Nowgong district the water of which is used for drinking purposes by the people living in the neighbourhood ?

1165. Is it a fact that the people there submitted a number of petitions to the Deputy Commissioner to stop polution of water of the beel ?

1166. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner declined to take any action in the matter ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the hardship and inconvenience suffered by the people and stop this practice in view of diseases that usually result from the polution of water ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1164.—No.

1165.—No. One petition was received by the Deputy Commissioner from the lessee to prevent steeping of jute by the villagers. This was sent to the Mauzadar to warn the people not to steep jute, if they were doing so.

1166. (*a*)—No.

(*b*).—The Deputy Commissioner reports that he will certainly take action if a genuine grievance exists.

Total expenditure of the Agricultural Department during 1934-36

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1167. Will Government be pleased to state the actual expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in Assam, during the years 1934, 1935, 1936 ?

(*a*) What percentage of the amount has been spent in pay and allowances of the officers.

1168. Will Government be pleased to state works of the intrinsic merit done to the agriculturists during the last three years by the Department ?

(*a*) Do Government think that the amount of works done by the Department, is commensurate with the expenditures incurred ?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to take steps to reduce the expenditure under this head ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1167 & 1167. (*a*)—The information is given in the statement below :—

Year	Actual total expenditure	Expenditure in pay and travelling allowance	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1934-35	4,45,570	2,61,695	59 %
1935-36	4,99,371	2,87,367	58 %
1936-37	5,29,485	3,07,434	58 %

1168.—The hon. member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture for the last three years.

(*a*)—This question asks for the expression of an opinion and Government are not prepared to reply to such questions.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

Number of roads, dispensaries, etc., in Nowgong under the Local Board

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1169. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of dispensaries,

(*ii*) the mileage of roads,

(*iii*) the number of wells,

(*iv*) the number of Middle Vernacular Schools,

(*v*) the number of Lower Primary Schools, in each of the Sub-Deputy Collector's Circles in the district of Nowgong under the Local Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1169.—The information is as follows—

	Sadr Circle	Samaguri Circle	Roha Circle	Dhing Cricle	Kampur Circle.
(*i*)—Dispensaries	4	2	4	2	2
(*ii*)—Mileage of roads.	131·26	113·22	109·26	49·60	55·7
(*iii*)—Wells	91	77	80	38	28
(*iv*)—Middle Vernacular Schools.	8	4	4	2	2
(*v*)—Lower Primary Schools.	66	78	52	43	42

Number of Forest offices maintained in the Habiganj Subdivision

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI, asked :

1170. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total number of forest offices maintained in the Habiganj subdivision ?

(*b*) The annual cost (both recurring and non-recurring) of maintaining those forest offices ?

(*c*) The annual income derived from the Reserved forests of Habiganj ?

1171. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge aware—

(*a*) that there are complaints that the public are very often unnecessarily harassed by frivolous cases brought by the officer in charge of forests in Habiganj subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, has he taken any preventive step ?

(*c*) If not, does he propose to make an enquiry into the allegations ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1170. (*a*)—Six.

(*b*)—Rupees 7,640 during 1936-37.

(*c*)—Rupees 11,168 during 1936-37.

1171. (*a*)—Government have no such information.

(*b*) and (*c*)—Does not arise.

Abolition of Examination for classical teachers

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

1172. Is it a fact that classical teachers, *viz.*, Pandits and Maulavis are required to appear at an Examination in English ?

1173. Is it a fact that no such examination is required in any other Province in India ?

1174.(*a*) Is it a fact that from the year 1940, the instructions in High Schools will be conducted through the medium of Vernacular ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of abolishing these examinations ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1172.—Yes.

1173.—Government have no information but think it unlikely that no English qualification is required.

1174.(*a*)—Yes : provided that in the case of Assamese High Schools, suitable text books are ready before then—as is expected will be the case.

(*b*)—Nowadays all candidates for classical mastership are qualified in English and the Examination has fallen into desuetude. Government have no objection to the abolition of the Examination and the matter will be further considered.

Medical Officer of Barama Public Health Dispensary

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1175.(*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health been drawn to the article published in the "Assamiya" dated the 22nd June, 1937, regarding bad behaviour of the Medical Officer of Barama Public Health Dispensary towards the patients ?

(*b*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to hold an enquiry and take steps to remedy the grievances of the public at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1175.*(a)*—Government have seen the article.

(b)—It appears that there are party cliques in the locality and the doctor offended one of the parties soon after he assumed charge. It is recognized that it will be in the public interest for the doctor to be transferred elsewhere and this will be done as soon as possible.

Prevalence of diseases in Barkhetri Mauza

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1176. Is Government aware that communication to and in Barkhetri Mauza is very difficult even during the cold weather ?

1177. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and Sanitation aware that malaria, eye diseases, dysentery, etc., prevail in epidemic forms in Barkhetri Mauza in Kamrup, during the hot season ?

1178. Is Government aware that for want of communication the public officials seldom visit the place ?

1179. Will Government be pleased to take steps with a view to improve the communication to this locality and render medical aid available to this locality without delay ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1176.—Yes.

1177.—Government is not aware that those diseases prevail in epidemic form in this locality during all hot seasons, but is aware of occasional outbreaks of cholera, etc.

1178.—It is visited less than places which are easier of access but officials who have work there do visit the locality.

1179.—That is a matter primarily for the Local Board.

Abolition of the introduction of the High Madrasa Section in the Sylhet Government Alia Madrasa

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHOUDHURI asked :

1180. Is it a fact that the Primary or Maktab Section of the Sylhet Government Alia Madrasa has been abolished for the introduction of the High Madrasa Section in the same institution ?

1181. Is it a fact that the Maktab provided the only recognised Quran class in the whole town of Sylhet and that the abolition of it has produced discontent among the Moslems of Sylhet ?

1182. If so, do Government propose to reconsider their decision and include the Maktab Section in the curriculum of the Sylhet Government Madrasa ?

1183. Is it a fact that the High Madrasa Branch of the Sylhet Government Madrasa is understaffed ?

1184. If so, do Government propose to appoint a Headmaster competent to look after the progress of English and other secular subjects in the Sylhet Government Madrasa ?

1185. Is it a fact that the status of Sylhet Government Madrasa was recognised by the Government of Assam as equal to the status of the Government first grade colleges in Assam.

1186. If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason why the status of the Madrasa and cadre of the Principal of the Madrasa were lowered ?

1187. Is it a fact that demand from the Muslim Community was made for the restoration of the status of the Madrasa and the degradation of the status of the Madrasa has created much discontent in the Muslim Community ?

1188. If so, do Government propose to restore the status of the Madrasa and cadre of its Principal to its original position ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1180.—Yes.

1181.—No.

1182.—Does not arise.

1183.—No.

1184.—Does not arise.

1185.—No. It is approximately equal to an Intermediate college.

1186.—Does not arise.

1187.—Yes.

1188.—Yes. In connection with the scheme for the institution of title classes which has been included in the current year's budget.

Census of venture schools in the province

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

1189. Is it a fact that many venture schools are being run by the poor villagers of scheduled castes and backward and tribals ?

1190. Do Government propose to take a census of venture schools throughout the province ?

1191. Is it a fact that the Local Boards have not been able to take up these venture schools due to inadequacy of funds at their disposal ?

1192. Do Government propose to finance the Local Boards with earmarked-grants for taking up these venture schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1189.—It may be so but Government have no definite information.

1190.—No. Government know the number of such schools.

1191.—Yes.

1192.—Government have provided half a lakh in the budget for this purpose.

Spread of primary education amongst the depressed classes

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS asked :

1193.(*a*) Is it a fact that spread of primary education amongst the depressed classes is much lower than that of others ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that educational activities have recently been working and that a large number of venture schools have been started by energetic young men from the depressed classes ?

(*c*) And if so, do Government propose to take up those schools and manage under a board specially constituted for the purpose ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1193.(*a*)—This seems probable but Government have no definite information.

(*b*)—Government have no information.

(*c*)—Does not arise.

Staff of the Veterinary Department

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS asked :

1194. (*a*) Is it a fact that the existing staff of the Veterinary Department is sufficient to cope with the cattle diseases prevailing in the Province ?

(*b*) If not, do Government propose (*i*) to make more appointments in the line recommended by the Linlithgow Commission or in the alternative (*ii*) to increase their salaries ?

1195. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the present Veterinary Superintendent has run the department satisfactorily ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether he will be made permanent in the said post ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1194. (*a*)—Not when epidemics break out in different parts of the province simultaneously.

(*b*)—The question of strengthening this Department is at present under the consideration of Government.

1195. (*a*)—Government must refuse to reply to questions dealing with their opinion of the merits of Government servants.

(*b*)—The question is under consideration.

Principle and procedure *re* transfer of Government servants

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1196. Will Government please state—

(*a*) The principle and procedure that is followed in transferring Government servants of Education Department of the province. How long are teachers allowed to remain in a place ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that popular teachers are allowed to remain in the same school for a long time on popular demand ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1196. (*a*)—The general principle followed is whether the transfer is in the public interest.

A teacher is allowed to remain at a place so long as his services are required there in the interests of the Public Service.

(*b*)—No.

Managing Committee of the R.B. High School at Palasbari

MAULAVI BADARUDDIN AHMED asked :

1197. Will Government be pleased to state—(*a*) Why the Managing Committee of the R. B. High School at Palasbari has not been reconstituted for the last 5 years ?

(*b*) Whether the Inspector of Schools advised for its reconstitution ?

(*c*) How many of the teachers of the school are drawing pay less than the minimum prescribed by the rules ?

(*d*) Whether the School fund is sufficiently rich. If not, why a new post of a graduate was created ?

(*e*) Whether the Inspector of Schools remarked in his inspection notes on 16th November 1934 that the staff was sufficient in number ?

(*f*) Whether the Inspector of Schools advised the Committee to take a teacher strong in English and Mathematics, when necessary ?

(*g*) Why a Graduate with History was subsequently appointed ?

1198. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Under what rules the Assistant Headmaster of the School mentioned in question 1197 above was granted leave without pay after suspension during the pendency of the criminal case against him ?

(*b*) Why was he not allowed to rejoin his post on his acquittal ?

(*c*) Whether he officiated as a Headmaster during the deputation vacancy of the Headmaster to the Dacca Training College and the Assistant Teacher below him as an Assistant Headmaster ?

(*d*) Under what rules the acting allowances were given to them ?

1199. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the School granted free-studentships to the Muslim boys according to the rules as noted by the Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education and the Hon'ble Minister for Education ?

(*b*) Whether the School appointed a Muhammadan Graduate as suggested by the Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education ?

(*c*) Whether the School purchased books with Muhammadan interest as suggested by him ?

1200. Do Government propose to take any steps, if the answer to any of the above questions (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) is in the negative ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :—

1197(*a*) and (*b*).—The Managing Committee of the R. B. High School at Palasbari was last reconstituted in February 1933. Before the termination of the 3 years' term, the Inspector of Schools asked the Committee to submit proposals for its reconstitution, but in order to deal with an accounts affair which was pending at the time, its term was extended for one year on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, and the President of the School Committee.

The Secretary has already been asked to take action for its reconstitution.

(*c*)—Six. But this is so in many aided schools.

(*d*)—There is a sum of Rs.5,800 in the school fund which is sufficient.

(*e*)—and (*f*)—Yes.

(*g*)—The school was again visited by the Inspector of Schools on 22nd August 1936 and after a further review of the whole situation he advised that an experienced teacher capable of teaching English and History was needed.

1198(*a*).—There is no standing rule in regard to the grant of leave to teachers of Aided Schools.

On the recommendation of the Committee Maulavi Azizur Rahman, Assistant Headmaster of the School, was granted leave without pay from 5th October 1936 to the date of the disposal of a criminal case instituted against him.

The Committee did not consider it proper to give him any allowance as his absence from duty was necessitated owing to criminal proceedings against him, *i. e.*, alleged criminal breach of trust as the Secretary of a Village Bank.

(*b*)—Because his work and conduct were found most unsatisfactory.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—There is no definite rule on the subject. The amount which was available in this connection was distributed between the acting Headmaster and Assistant Head Master according to the decision of the Managing Committee.

1199(*a*).—There are 26 Muhammadan pupils out of a total enrolment of 237. Of these 26 Muhammadan pupils 2 are scholars.

The number of Muhammadan pupils enjoying free-studentships is 7 out of a total of 24 pupils.

This has been noted as a liberal provision by the Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education.

(*b*).—The Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, Assam, did not suggest the appointment of a Muhammadan graduate. In his inspection remarks of 10th May 1934 he suggested that if the present Maulavi did not improve his teaching in six months' time he should be replaced by a graduate with Persian as one of his degree subjects.

The Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education again visited the school on 18th June 1935. He found the work of the Persian teacher satisfactory and therefore he did not advice the Committee to remove him.

(*c*)—With the money available the school has only been able to purchase the text-books necessary.

1200.—Government do not consider that any action is necessary.

Number of teachers of Class III cadre in the Sylhet Government Madrasa

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

1201. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state how many teachers in the cadre of Class III of the Assam School Service are in the Sylhet Government Madrasa ?

1202. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if it is a fact that the present staff of teachers is not sufficient to teach the secular subjects of the Madrasa ?

1203. Will the Hon'ble Minister, Education, please state whether the status of High Madrasa is equal to that of a High English School ?

1204. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how many secular teachers are required to run a High English School ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1201.—Out of a total of eighteen teachers nine are in Class III.

1202.—No. Of the 9 teachers in Class III 4 are Assistant Masters for teaching secular subjects and of the other teachers 2 are for teaching secular subjects.

1203.—Yes.

1204.—This depends on the enrolment, composition of the pupils and the subjects taught in the School. Thirteen teachers on an average including two teachers for classical subjects are required for a High School with a single section in each class.

Bengali language as a medium of Education in some of the High Schools in Assam Valley

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

1205. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Lower Primary, Middle English and High English Schools where education is imparted through the medium of Bengali in the districts of Goalpara, Darrang, Kamrup and Nowgong ?

1206. Will Government please state the number of High Schools district by district where education is imparted through the medium of Bengali and which receive grant-in-aid from Government in the Assam Valley Districts ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1205 and 1206.—Two statements giving the particulars asked for are laid on the table.

Statement I showing the number of Lower Primary, Middle English, and High English Schools where education is imparted through the medium of Bengali in the districts of Goalpara, Darrang, Kamrup and Nowgong

District	Primary Schools	Middle English Schools	High Schools
Goalpara	247	16 (1 Middle English Madrasa).	4
Darrang	Nil	Nil	1
Kamrup	1	1 (private)... ...	1
Nowgong	1	2	

Statement II showing the number of aided High Schools in each district of the Assam Valley where education is imparted through the medium of Bengali

Name of the district	Number of High Schools where education is imparted through the medium of Bengali
1. Lakhimpur	2 (Class VII only started this year).
2. Sibsagar	Nil.
3. Nowgong	Nil.
4. Darrang	1
5. Kamrup	1
6. Goalpara	Nil.

New course of Jadukata river (known as a " Gurkatir Gang ")

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

1207. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the new course of Jadukata river [known as " Gurkatir Gang " (গড়কাটার গাঙ)] is not fordable even in dry season ?

1208. Is it a fact that the sarpanch of circle No. 3 submitted to the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, to start a ferry at a convenient place ?

1209. Is it a fact that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, *Kala-azar* Dispensary, submitted petition to Government to the effect that the deep river, New Jadukata, created such inconvenience that he could not attend the *Kala-azar* Sub-centre at Mullapura regularly ?

1210. Is it a fact that the then Subdivisional Officer informed the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Palash *Kala-azar* Dispensary situated at Shaktiar Khola that steps were being taken to start a ferry there ?

1211. If the answers to above questions are in the affirmative, will Government please state what steps have been taken to remove the inconvenience of the people as well as of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon ?

1212. If the answers are in the negative do Government propose to start a ferry there without delay ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1207.—Yes.

1208.—Yes.

1209 —Yes.

1210.—Yes.

1211.—The matter has been under correspondence for some time between the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and the Chairman, Local Board, Sunamganj. It is reported that the Local Board are still considering the matter.

1212.—Does not arise.

Jagannathpur and Mirpur Middle English Schools.

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

1213. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether the Director of Public Instruction received several applications from the management of the Jagannathpur and Mirpur Middle English Schools in the district of Sylhet for grant-in-aid within the last 3 years ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that these two schools are most efficiently managed and have shown brilliant results in the department examinations ?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that the Schools are experiencing extreme financial difficulties as they are solely to depend on public donations and charities for their existence ?

(*d*) Whether Government propose to grant adequate aids to these two institutions ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1213.(*a*)—Two applications were received by the Director of Public Instruction—one in November 1935 and the other in April 1937—from the authorities of the Jagannathpur School for a grant-in-aid of Rs.40 per mensem. The Mirpur School did not apply for a grant-in-aid but applied in 1934 for a building grant of Rs.1,000.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—The Jagannathpur School is being maintained mainly by Babu Bharat Chandra Roy, the Founder and Secretary. The Mirpur School has an average fee income of Rs.119 per mensem against the current year's scale of Rs.123 per mensem so that its financial condition is not bad.

(*d*)—The cases of these Schools will be considered along with others if the Assembly vote the provision in the budget for increased grants-in-aid to non-Government Secondary Schools.

Provincialisation of the Middle Vernacular Schools of Sunamganj Subdivision

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY asked :

1214. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state :—

(*a*) The number of Government Middle Vernacular Schools in each of the subdivisions of the districts of Sylhet and Cachar ?

(*b*) Whether there is any such Government Middle Vernacular School in the subdivision of Sunamganj ?

(*c*) If the answer to question (*b*) is in the nagative, do Government propose to start a new Middle Vernacular School in any suitable locality or to provincialise any of the existing Middle Vernacular Schools of the subdivision of Sunamganj ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1214.(*a*)—North Sylhet 1
Habiganj 2
Other subdivisions ... ... Nil

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—No. Vernacular education is properly the responsibility of the Local Boards.

Management of the Berry-White Medical School

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked :

1215. Will Government be pleased to refer to Rules framed by the Government of Assam for the management of the Berry-White Medical School at Dibrugarh published in Notification No. 1907-L. S.-G., dated the 20th May 1935 and state on what basis the classification of communities and the percentage against each was laid down?

1216. Is it a fact that "Domiciled Hindus" in rule 13 (*a*) (5) are included in "Residents of the Province" in Rule 13 (*a*) (7)? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the classification is separately shown in the list?

1217. Is it a fact that "Domiciled" are "residents of the Province" with an additional qualification to boot?

1218. Is it a fact that applications from "Domiciled" Hindu candidates were not taken into consideration by the Managing Committee at its meeting held on 28th June 1937 on the ground that they fell under rule 13 (*a*) (5) with percentage of less than one for them whereas 3 candidates were selected from the residents of the province under Rule 13(*a*)(7) with a percentage of 5 ?

1219. Is it a fact (*a*) that there is complaint of an anomalous situation being created in consequence of the above classification ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to remove the same by expunging 13 (*a*) (5) from the rules ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1215. The rules published with notification No. 1907 L. S.-G., dated the 20th May 1935, were revised by Notification No. 103 L. S.-G., dated the 9th January 1936. The classification of communities and percentage is based on the number and percentage of various communities in the public services in Assam with the exception that the head "others" has been divided into two communities, *viz.*, "Residence of the province" and "others".

1216.—No.

1217. As the hon. member knows "domicile" and "residence" are legally two entirely different things.

1218.—Yes.

1219. —No complaint has been received but Government recognize that the position is *prima facie* anomalous and the matter will be further examined.

Archæological finds in the Kapili and the Jamuna valleys in Nowgong

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1220. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles published in the issues of the *Times of Assam* and *Sylhet Chronicle*, dated 1st and 3rd May 1937 respectively regarding the Archæological finds in the Kapili and the Jamuna Valleys in the district of Nowgong?

1221. If so, will Government be pleased to ask for a detailed report of the finds from Mr. R. M. Nath whose own initiative is responsible for the discovery?

1222. In view of the importance of the finds will Government be pleased to publish the report if submitted and take steps for preservation of the archæological and sculptural designs, relics and the specimens brought by Mr. Nath to the town of Nowgong.

1223. Will Government take the initiative now and place Mr. Nath under special deputation to explore the different places of Assam and specially of Nowgong in search of ancient Archæological finds.

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1220.—Yes.

1221 and 1222.—The hon. member is probably not aware that a report on the antiquities in the Kopili and Jamuna Valleys was prepared in 1934 by Srijut Birinchi Kumar Barooah who was given an honorarium by Government for the same. The whole question is one which can be most suitably dealt with in the first place by the Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti and a copy of the hon. member's questions and of the replies will be sent to that Association.

1223.—No. " Archæological sites and remains " is not a provincial but a central subject. The deputation of an officer without any previous training in Archæology to search for archæological finds would be useless.

Number of Government scholarships in Mechanical Engineering

BABU SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS asked:

1224. Will Government please state—

(*i*) How many pupils obtained Assam Government Scholarships in Mechanical Engineering during the last ten years, *i.e.*, between 1926 and 1936?

(*ii*) How many of them are duly qualified as Mechanical Engineers from the Calcutta University during the said period ?

(*iii*) How many of them have been provided under the Government ?

(*iv*) Whether they are competent to hold responsible posts ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1224—(*i*). Eleven—between 1926 and 1931. The scholarships were discontinued in 1932.

(*ii*)—Seven, and two are under practical training now.

(*iii*)—Government have no information.

(*iv*)—Government cannot reply to a question asking for an opinion.

Number of Government Middle English and Primary Schools in Jaintia Hills

REV. L. GATPHOH asked:

1225. Will Government be pleased to state what is the number of Government Middle English and Primary Schools in Jaintia Hills ?

1226. Will Government be pleased to state what is the sum Government spends annually on Middle and Primary Education in the Jowai Subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1225.—There are no Government Schools in the Jaintia Hills.

1226.—Rupees seven thousand and twenty annually in Grants-in-aid to missions.

Percentage of literacy in vernacular in the province

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked:

1227. Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of literacy in vernacular under each Local Board of the province ?

1228. Will Government be pleased to state on what basis and principle Government contributions for education are made to different Local Boards in the province ?

1229. (*a*) Is it in the contemplation of Government to give proportionate increased Government grants for education to those Local Boards whose percentage of literacy in vernacular is lower ?

(*b*) If not, what are the reasons ?

1230. Is it a fact that—

(*a*) The Goalpara Local Board has closed twenty-seven Lower Primary Schools since April, 1937 mainly on account of financial difficulties ?

(*b*) That great inconveniences are being felt by the people of the localities concerned for the sudden closure of the aforesaid schools ?

1231.(*a*) Whether Government is contemplating to sanction a special increased grant to the Goalpara Local Board just to enable the said Board to re-open the closed schools ?

(*b*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied.

1227.—Literacy figures are not available for subdivisions. The district is the smallest unit for which such figures are available.

1228. Two principles have been adopted at various times, *viz* :—

(*i*) the population of the Local Board area.

(*ii*) the number of venture schools in the area.

Government have under consideration what principle is to be adopted in distributing such grants in future.

1229. (*a*)—No. The hon. member is referred to the last paragraph of the reply to 1228.

(*b*)—Because the percentage of literacy is not known.

1230. (*a*)—They closed 26 schools, amalgamated 3 schools and opened 10 new schools.

The reasons are mainly on account of financial difficulties.

(*b*)—It is reported that the people of some localities are suffering inconvenience.

1231. (*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Because of lack of provincial funds. The Board will in any case obtain its share of the additional sum of ½ a lakh budgeted in the current year for primary education.

Constitution of the Assam Forest Enquiry Committee.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1232. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the following :—

(1) The objects with which the last Assam Forest Enquiry Committee was constituted ?

(2) Outlines of the recommendations, if any, of the said Committee ?

(3) Outlines of recommendations accepted, if any, by the Government ?

(4) Improvement in the state of things, if any, in consequence of such acceptance ?

(5) If so, what ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1232. (1)—The object was to enquire into any lleged defects of the forest system which tended to produce friction or to cause hardship to the people and to advise Government how these defects could be remedied without serious interference with the primary object of the forest system, *viz.*, the conservation of the forest produce of the country for future generations.

(2)—A summary of the recommendations is given in Chapter VI of the Committee's Report, a copy of which is laid on the Library table for the information of hon. members.

(3) The recommendations accepted by Government have been outlined in a Government Resolution, a copy of which is laid on the Library table.

(4) and (5)—The improvements that have been made are stated in the above Resolution.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 27th August 1937)

Sub-Registry office at Barlekha

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1233. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Registry Office at Barlekha has been closed ?

(*b*) If so, when and what were the reasons for the closure ?

1234. Is it a fact that the jurisdiction of the Barlekha Sub-Registry Office (now closed) has been transferred to Beanibazar office whose jurisdiction is the entire thana of Jaldhup comprising an area of 257 square miles with a population of 161,834 ?

1235. Is it a fact that two police stations are proposed to be opened, one at Beanibazar and the other at Barlekha for police administration of the same area ?

1236. Is it a fact that new Sylhet Tenancy Act provides for compulsory registration of several kinds of deeds which were hitherto optional ?

1237. Is it a fact that the Beanibazar Sub-Registry Office is far off from the Barlekha Office area and badly connected by communication ?

1238. In view of the above, do Government propose to restore the Barlekha Office ?

1239. (*a*) Will Government please state whether they have any rules or practice for opening and closing sub-registry offices ?

(*b*) If so, what are they ?

1240. Do Government propose to supply registration facilities for people requiring them ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1233. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—From 1st March 1933. As the office was running at a loss it was abolished as a measure of economy.

1234.—Yes.

1235.—Yes, by transferring a portion of the Karimganj police station to the proposed station at Beanibazar.

1236.—The hon. member is referred to section 7(1) of the Sylhet Tenancy Act.

1237.—It is far off but not badly connected by communication.

1238.—Government will consider the matter.

1239. (*a*)—There are no rules. Offices are opened and closed when necessary and financially practicable.

(*b*) Does not arise.

1240.—Yes, subject of course to administrative practicability.

Number of State Lower Primary Schools and Dispensary in Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1241. Will Government be pleased to state—
(*a*) Whether there are any State Lower Primary Schools in Nowgong ?
(*b*) If so, how many ?
(*c*) Is there any State Dispensary in Nowgong ? If so, where ?

1242. Is it a fact that a couple of months ago, two in-door female patients of the Nowgong Earle Hospital, while taking their midday meals, were brought to injection bench, and were given *Kala-azar* injection immediately after ?

1243. Is it a fact that as a result of that injection on the loaded stomach, one of them died after a while and the other recovered after much strenuous efforts ?

1244. Will Government be pleased to institute an impartial and sifting enquiry into the matter and take action against those who are at fault ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1241. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—23.
(*c*)—Yes. There are Public Health dispensaries at Hojai, Dabaka, Kathiatoli, Chapanalla, Kuaritol, Baithalangso, Amsoi, Morigaon, Jajori and Mayong.

1242.—No.

1243.—No.

1244.—Does not arise.

Duties of the Deputy Superintendents of Police

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1245. Will Government be pleased to state—
(*a*) The duties of the Deputy Superintendents of Police ?
(*b*) If the post is necessary to assist the Superintendent of Police in his routine and supervision work, have not the same been more usefully done by the Inspectors ?
(*c*) When the post was first created in Assam and when for Nowgong, Kamrup, Darrang and Lakhimpur ?
(*d*) Who did the work of the Deputy Superintendent before that ?

1246. Is it a fact that the number of Inspectors has also been increased in each district of Assam since the creation of the post of the Deputy Superintendent of Police ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1245. (*a*)—The Deputy Superintendents of Police are required to help the Superintendents of Police in their duties of control and supervision and to relieve them of office routine.
(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—The post was first created in Assam in 1906. None of these posts is earmarked for any district.

(*d*)—The Superintendents of Police and their Assistant Superintendents.

1246. There has been an increase in the total strength of Inspectors sanctioned for the Province, but there has not been an increase in every district.

Fatal accident on the Kathiatali-Dabaka Road

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1247. Are Government aware that a Public Works Department labourer while working on the Kathiatali-Dabaka Road died instantaneously from an accident about a month ago ? If so, do Government propose to make any arrangement to grant necessary relief to the dependents of the said deceased labourer ?

1248. Will Government be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken by them (Government) to insist upon or force the labourers working for the Public Works Department to insure their lives against accidents ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1247. Yes. A fatal accident occurred. No. The deceased relatives are at liberty to claim compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act from the contractor if they consider they have a good case.

1248. The provincial Government can take no action in such cases.

Number of persons convicted under the Assam Criminal Law (Amendment) Act

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1249. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How many persons were dismissed from their service in the province on suspicion in connection with Terrorist activity under the Assam Criminal Law (Amendment) Act ?

(*b*) How many are detained under the Act ?

(*c*) How many are convicted under it ?

(*d*) If it is a fact that Srijukta Saudamini Chowdhury, B.A., the *ex*-Headmistress of the Tezpur Girls' High English School was dismissed from her post by the Tezpur Municipal Board on suspicion that she was an active member of a revolutionary movement in Bengal ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1249. (*a*)—None from Government service. Government have no information about private services.

(*b*)—None are detenus in Jail, but two are interned in their home villages under Section 16 of the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act (III of 1934).

(*c*)—The number of persons convicted after trial by a Special Tribunal appointed under section 4 of the same Act is six.

(*d*)—Yes, but this had no connection with the Assam Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Application of Srijut Govindaram Upadhyaya, a Nepali gentleman, for naturalisation as a British subject

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1250. (*a*) Is it a fact that Srijut Govindaram Upadhyaya, a Nepali gentleman of Tezpur, submitted his application on 14th May 1936 for naturalisation as a British subject to His Excellency the Governor of Assam, through the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, and deposited the requisite money at the Tezpur treasury ?

(*b*) Has his application been granted ?

(*c*) If not, why was the application rejected ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to place on table the necessary papers about the application of Srijut Govindaram Upadhyaya ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1250. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Not yet.

(*c*)—Through an oversight, the Deputy Commissioner applied the wrong Act, *viz.*, the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, and not the Indian Naturalisation Act of 1926.

(*d*)—No, the papers have been sent to the Commissioner for necessary action.

Communal disturbance in Karimganj

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1251. Will Government be pleased to state—

If any representation was received from the Secretary, " Purba Srihatta Hindu Sabha " praying for an enquiry into the communal disturbance in Karimganj that occurred in February 1937 with a view to find out the culprits responsible for the disturbance ?

1252. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made and if so, with what result ?

1253. If no enquiry was made, why it was not done ?

1254. Is it a fact that unless such miscreants are taken to task a recurrence of similar trouble is not unlikely in future ?

1255. What steps, have Government taken or propose to take to check the recurrence of similar trouble in future ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1251.—Yes.

1252.—The representation was sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, for such action as he deemed proper.

1253 and 1254.—The criminal cases filed were compromised at the instance of leading men of both communities. In view of this the Deputy Commissioner did not consider it advisable again to exacerbate religious feelings by re-traversing past events in a fresh enquiry. Attempts were made to find out who was responsible for the influx of Muhammadans into Karimganj town on the night of the 19th February, but were not successful. Government are of opinion that communal disturbances, when, as in this case no serious offence is committed, are better dealt with by getting the leaders to compromise than by instituting court cases or enquiries, which may only serve to keep religious feelings tense over a long period.

1255.—No steps are possible, Government will deal with each situation as it arises.

Numbers of Sub-Inspectors and Constables of the Civil Police

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

1256. Will Government be pleased to furnish the numbers separately of the Sub-Inspectors and constables of the Civil Police force, and also a statement shewing how they are distributed over different branches of work of the Department.

1257. (*a*) Is it a fact that the men who supply guards on the Treasuries and on the despatch of money from one treasury to another, form a separate cadre from the ordinary Civil Police Force.

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to give the numbers and the cost incurred on them annually.

(*c*) Is it a fact that they are part and parcel of the ordinary police force. If so what proportion do they bear to the ordinary force both in regard to number and cost.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1256.—The Sanctioned strength is as follows:—

Rank.	Armed Branch	Unarmed Branch	Total
(*i*)—Sub-Inspectors	16	274	290
(*ii*)—Constables	1200	2329	3529

1257. (*a*)—No. Treasury guards and escorts are furnished from the Armed Branch and included in the total force of that rank.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—The reply to the first part is in the affirmative.

As to the second part, the sanctioned strength of treasury guards and escorts is as follows:—

	(Armed Branch) Head constables	(Armed Branch) constables
(*i*) Treasury guards	19	159
(*ii*) Escorts ...	16	207

No separate figures for men employed for treasure escorts are available as they have other escort duties also to perform.

It is not possible to separate the cost on this account from the total expenditure incurred for the entire police force.

Proposed Bund in Abua Khal near village Pirijpur under Police Station Sunamganj

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1258. (*a*) Will Government pleas estate if there was a proposal to have a 'Bund' in Abua Khal near village Pirijpur under Police Station Sunamganj to protect from flood the vast Buro crop area lying between Halir Haor and Sanir Haor and extending westward upto the border of Bengal District of Mymensingh ?

(*b*) If so, is it a fact that the scheme was abandoned ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to take up the work immediately to protect the crop of thousands of poor agriculturists ?

1259. Is Government aware that many Buro crop lands remained uncultivated this year and last year in the Sanir Haor and Luver Haor under Police Station Tahirpur in the Sunamganj Subdivision for want of water ;

(*b*) Is it a fact that attempts were made by the Zamindar concerned to retain and accumulate water ;

(*c*) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to supply water by irrigation works or by making any 'bund' or by supplying water pumps whichever shall be deemed suitable and less expensive.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1258 and 1259. (*a*) and (*b*)—Government have no information. Government do not ordinarily undertake to provide water to or to keep water from lands under cultivation : it is a matter for the owners or tenants of the lands themselves to build bunds when they are required, whether to let in or to keep out water for purposes of agriculture.

(*c*)—Government will inquire if anything can be usefully done.

Newspaper article *re* new rules in Tezpur Court

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1260. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article which appeared in the " Dainik Batori " of the 22nd July 1937, entitled " তেজপুৰৰ আদালতত নতুন নিয়ম "

1261. If so, do Government propose to make an enquiry into the allegations in order to give relief to the litigant public ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1260.—Yes.

1261.—If the hon. member will be good enough to give notice of the precise point or points on which he wants information, Government will be glad to have enquiries made and let the Assembly know.

Halting allowances to members of the Assembly

SRIJUT BHAIRAB CHANDRA DAS asked :

1262. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the halting allowances proposed for the Assembly members in the Punjab and Bengal ?

(*b*) If so, what steps do Government propose to take with regard to such allowance for the members of this Assembly ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1262.(*a*)—Yes, as far as Bengal is concerned.

(*b*)—It is proposed to introduce a Bill on the subject in the present session of the Assembly.

Spread of education amongst the backward people

SRIJUT KHORSING TERANG asked :

1263. Will Government be pleased to state how many Lower Primary and Middle English Schools there are in the Sibsagar and Nowgong Districts within Mikir villages (backward) and what action is being taken by Government for the spread of education in these backward places ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1263.—There are 10 Lower primary Schools, *viz.*, 9 Government and 1 Local Board for Mikirs in the Sibsagar District and 23 Government and 8 Venture Lower Primary Schools in the Nowgong District. There is also one Middle English School managed by the American Baptist Mission in Nowgong district.

As regards the second part of the question—provision has been made in the current year's budget for the establishment of a Government Middle English School for Mikirs at Tika in the Nowgong District. The hon. member will find details of this at page 86 of the Budget Memorandum. The question of opening more Government primary schools in Mikir villages is being considered.

Number of appointments in the Assam School Service

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI asked :

1264. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of appointments, class by class, in the Assam School Service ?

(*b*) The number of appointments held by the Muhammadans in each of the classes ?

(*c*) The number of appointments held by—

(1) Anglo-Persian teachers ?

(2) Pandits ?

(*d*) Whether the appointments held by Anglo-Persian teachers and Pandits are not virtually sectional appointments, inasmuch as the posts of Anglo-Persian teachers go to Muhammadans and those of the Pandits to the Hindus automatically without any reference to communal representation ?

(*e*) If so, do Government propose to calculate henceforward the percentage of communal representation on the total number of officers of the different classes excluding the posts of Anglo-Persian teachers and Pandits ?

(*f*) If it is a fact that in the calculation of communal representation, classes I and II of the Assam School Service are left out ?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to put a stop to this method of calculation immediately and work out the communal representation on the total strength of the whole service, only excluding the posts of Anglo-Persian teachers and Pandits ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1264. (*a*)—Class I 45
Class II 23
Class III 343
(*b*)—Class I 8
Class II 2
Class III ... ... 114 inclusive of 2 Muslims not native to the province.

(*c*)—(1)—25
(2)—20
(*d*)—Yes.
(*e*)—This has not been done in the past, but Government will consider the suggestion.
(*f*)—No. Only gazetted appointments are excluded. Class II is non-gazetted.
(*g*)—This does not appear to be necessary. Appointment to Class I is made by promotion from Class II, and ultimately, as the present incumbents retire, the communal representation in Class I will be proportionate to the numbers of the communities. In any case the addition of 45 posts in Class I to the 366 posts in Classes II and III will not materially alter the number of appointments available for any particular community.

Starting of Agricultural colonies in the Province

MAULAVI ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURI asked :

1265. Is it a fact that the Government assured Srijut Jogendra Nath Gohain in the March Session (1936) of the Assam Legislative Council, that agricultural colonies would be started as soon as the training of the students in the Sylhet and Jorhat centres were completed ?

1266. Is it a fact that though the students completed their training course by the end of December 1936, no such colony has been started uptil now ?

1267. Is it a fact that owing to the failure on the part of Government in starting the proposed colonies or in otherwise providing the trained youths, the agricultural training classes are not attracting many learners from the educated unemployed ?

1268. Do Government propose to start the proposed colonies immediately ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1265.—The previous Hon'ble Minister in charge of agriculture stated in reply to a supplementary question that he expected to be able to start a colony as soon as the young men were trained.

1266.—Yes.

1267.—The Jorhat class has again attracted a large number of candidates but the Sylhet class is reported to be not so popular. The lack of popularity of the Sylhet class is probably due to the reason assigned by the hon. member.

1268.—The matter is under the consideration of the present Government. The hon. member will see from pages 100 and 106 of the current year's budget memorandum that the question has not been overlooked.

Total strength of the various cadre of the Education Department

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

1269. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total strength of the various cadre of the Department of Education ?

(*b*) The number of posts held by Musalmans and other communities in each cadre ?

(*c*) Whether Government propose to make more appointments from among the members of communities still under-represented ?

(*d*) The reasons that actuated Government to make a distinction between the Caste and Depressed Class Hindus in the matter of appointments ?

1270. Is it a fact that Musalmans of the whole Province are treated as one unit in the matter of appointments ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1269.(*a*)—(1) Assam Educational Service 61

(2) Assam School Service 411

(3) Assam Lower School Service 288

(4) Ministerial Service 130

(*b*)—Statements are laid on the table.

ASSAM EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 61	Number of appointments held by each community
Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	...	...
2. Muslims ...	31	18·91	9
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	26	15·86	2
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	9	5·49	17
5. Scheduled Castes	6	3·66	...
6. Domiciled Hindus.	...	...	5
7. Tribal people, Hills and Plains.	16	9·76	1(*a*) (*a*) His services have been transferred to the Public Service Commission.
8 Others ...	12	7·32	17*
			61

*Bengali Hindus who are not domiciled.

ASSAM SCHOOL SERVICE

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numercal strength the total number of appointments being 411	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	...	...
2. Muslims ...	31	127·1	124(*a*) (*a*) Inclusive of 2 Muslims not native to the Province.
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	26	106·6	145
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	9	36·9	71
5. Scheduled Castes	6	24·6	7
6. Domiciled Hindus	...	...	11
7. Tribal people, Hills and Plains.	16	65·6	19
8. Others ...	12	49·2	31*

408+3 vacant.

*Bengalis who are not domiciled .. 29
Christians 2

ASSAM LOWER SCHOOL SERVICE

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 288	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	...	...
2. Muslims ...	31	89·28	57
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	26	74·88	126
4. Hindus, Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	9	25·92	50
5. Scheduled Castes.	6	17·28	7
6. Domiciled Hindus.	...	...	3
7. Tribal people, Hills and Plains.	16	46·08	19
8. Others ...	12	34·56	16*

278+10 vacant.

*Bengalis who are not domiciled .. 13
Others 3

16

MINISTERIAL SERVICE

Communities	Percentage of each community on total population	Number of appointments which each community might hope to hold if the sole consideration was their numerical strength the total number of appointments being 130	Number of appointments held by each community
1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	...	...	...
2. Muslims ...	31	40·3	40
3. Hindus, Assam Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	26	33·8	45
4. Hindus Surma Valley (Excluding those falling in categories 5 and 6).	9	11·7	25
5. Scheduled castes	6	7·8	6
6. Domiciled Hindus.	...	...	...
7. Tribal people, Hills and Plains.	16	20·8	10
8. Others ...	12	15·6	1*

127+3 vacant.

*Bengali Hindu.

(*c*)—Yes, provided of course, that suitable candidates are forthcoming.

(*d*)—Because the distinction was recognized in Government of India Act.

1270.—Yes.

Stoppage of the Sudhangsu Memorial Sports in Sunamganj

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1271. (*a*) Will Government please state if it issued any instructions to district and Subdivisional Officers not to allow any function to be held in commemoration of any Congress Worker ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, took some steps to stop the Sudhangshu Memorial Sports arranged to be held in Sunamganj in April 1937 in commemoration of Sudhangshu Mohan Sarma who died in jail while undergoing punishment for picketing in the Murarichand College, Sylhet, during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1931 ?

(*c*) Did the Subdivisional Officer take such steps in his own initiative or according to the instructions from the Government.

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Headmaster, Government High School, Sunamganj, ordered the students not to join the Sudhangshu Memorial Sports ?

(*e*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the *Janasakti*, dated 28th April 1937, under the heading "সুনামগঞ্জে সুধাংশু ভীতি" ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1271. (*a*)—No such instructions were issued.

(*b*) and (*c*)—There is nothing to show that the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, took any steps to stop the sports, which were actually held on 1st and 2nd May last.

(*d*)—Orders were passed by the Headmaster on the 24th April 1937 forbidding boys to join "Sports competitions organised by any association wherein this school is not represented, without previous permission of the Headmaster obtained through the Game Secretary". No name of any particular association or sports was mentioned in the orders.

Some boys applied for permission to join the sports in question. The permission was refused.

(*e*)—Yes.

Abolition of the dual control system in Primary Education

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1272. (*a*) Do Government propose to consider the suggestion about the abolition of dual system in the control of primary education in the province, made by Mr. S. C. Goswami, Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley, and take action accordingly (*vide Sylhet Chronicle*, dated the 19th April 1937) ?

(*b*) Will Government also please consider other suggestions of his regarding (1) establishment of separate educational boards, (2) uneven distribution of schools (3) low attendance and (4) relapses to illiteracy (*vide Sylhet Chronicle*, dated the 19th April 1937) ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to make retrenchment of expenditure in the Education Department under the head "Inspection" ? If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1272. (*a*) and (*b*)—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*)—Government do not propose to make any retrenchment of expenditure on Inspection as they consider that regular and systematic inspection of Schools is essential especially when teachers are poorly qualified.

Distribution of tube-wells and water-pumps in Sunamganj subdivision

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1273. Will Government please state how many tube-wells and water-pumps were distributed throughout the subdivision of Sunamganj in the year 1936-37, by Government ?

1274. Will Government please state (*a*) how many of them were utilised for irrigation purposes, (*b*) how many for the supply of drinking water ?

(*c*) where they were supplied,

and

(*d*) through whom ?

1275. Will Government please state how many of them were sent to Sunamganj for distribution ?

1276. Is it a fact that a committee was constituted in Sunamganj for this purpose, if so, will Government please lay on the table a report about the activities of the committee ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1273.—Tube-wells were not distributed by Government. The allotment from the Government of India grant for water-supply is being utilized in constructing tube-wells and the allotment for irrigation was utilized by the Agricultural Department in purchasing and working pumping sets for demonstration purposes.

1274. (*a*)—Four.

(*b*)—A programme of 45 tube-wells was drawn up by the Sub-divisional Officer's Advisory Committee of which five were taken up as an experimental measure. Three of those have been sunk by a Company with great difficulty and after changing the site of each several times as the soil did not appear to be suitable. The advent of the rainy season has made further progress impossible.

(*c*)—The four irrigation pumps were worked at Paragoan, Patkura, Katia and Southanpur.

(*d*)—The irrigation pumps were worked by the Department of Agriculture.

1275.—See reply to question 1273 above.

1276.—Yes. As regards the second part of the question Government have no further information than is contained in the reply to question 1274 (*b*) above.

Measures taken by Government on persons who participated in the observation of Hartal

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1277.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether Government took any measure to punish persons who participated in the Hartal declared by the Congress to be observed on the 1st April 1937 ?

(*b*) If not, will Government state the reasons why Police seized the gun of Babu Nalini Nath Chaudhuri of Beheli under Police Station Tahirpur in the subdivision of Sunamganj, and told him that the gun was going to be confiscated for the reason of his participating in a meeting on the day of Hartal ?

(*c*) Will Government please state according to what section of the Arms Act this seizure of gun has been made ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, has subsequently written to Nalini Babu informing him that it is unnecessary and undesirable that he should have a gun ?

(*e*) Will Government please state why Nalini Babu was considered to be an undesirable person for holding a gun ?

(*f*) Is it a fact that Nalini Babu was granted license for holding a gun on the ground that he possessed large property which requires protection and large amount of agricultural land to be protected from wild birds and beasts and that he still requires a gun on the same ground ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1277.(*a*)—No such measures were taken.

(*b*)—It is not known what was said by the Police. The gun license was withdrawn under Deputy Commissioner's orders and the licensee was given two months time to sell the gun to any authorised person.

(*c*)—Section 18(*a*) of the Indian Arms Act.

(*d*)—A copy of the Deputy Commissioner's order was sent to him.

(*e*)—Because he was considered to be an irresponsible person, having a conviction for assaulting a village chaukidar and having been made a special constable for six months.

(*f*)—The information is not available.

Barpeta Government High School

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1278.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education please state—

(*i*) Whether the main building of the Barpeta Government High School being more than 40 years old is in a dilapidated condition and its roof was blown off recently by storm causing a great deal of damage ?

(*ii*) Whether it fails to provide sufficient accommodation necessary for the present needs and requires thorough overhauling and reconstruction ?

(*iii*) Whether a scheme of reconstruction was considered and approved by the Education Department long ago ?

(*b*) Whether Hon'ble Minister proposes to consider the matter and take steps to make provision in the budget for the cost of construction of the building ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1278.(*a*)(*i*)—It was built in 1909, and is in a dilapidated condition. Part of the roof was blown away and part of the walls blown down by a storm on the 2nd May 1937.

(*ii*)—Yes.

(*iii*)—A project costing Rs.86,000 was prepared in 1916.

(*b*)—Yes, when funds permit.

Number of boys reading in the Primary, Middle Vernacular, Middle English and High Schools for the last five years

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1279.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state year by year, for 5 years, from 31st March 1933 to 31st March 1937 for the province of Assam the number of boys reading in the first and the last standards of (*i*) Primary schools, (*ii*) Middle Vernacular schools, (*iii*) Middle English Schools and (*iv*) High Schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1279.(*a*)—The following is the statement—

Year	Primary Schools		Middle Vernacular Schools		Middle English Schools		High Schools	
	Enrolment in		Enrolment in		Enrolment in		Enrolment in	
	1st Standard	Last Standard	1st Standard	Last Standard	1st Standard	Last Standard	1st Standard	Last Standard
1933	115,978	22,655	5,545	2,142	5,090	2,807	2,731	2,209
1934	115,848	23,590	5,892	2,173	5,121	2,675	2,878	2,254
1935	122,326	24,011	6,423	2,278	5,690	2,674	3,257	2,334
1936	132,080	24,545	7,114	2,523	6,171	2,910	3,516	2,705
1937	134,142	26,110	7,468	2,706	6,896	3,127	3,899	2,669

Number of Night Schools in Assam

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1280. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Night Schools started through the Co-operative Societies in the Assam Valley and who financed them ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1280.—Thirty-seven : they are financed mainly by the Co-operative Societies.

Amendment of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1281. Is it a fact that the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912 has been thoroughly amended in other provinces to suit the present conditions ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1281.—Government are aware that several provinces have their own provincial Co-operative Societies Acts.

Registration of opium consumers

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1282. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) When was the registration of opium consumers started ?

(*ii*) What was the total number of opium eaters in this Province then and the number in the Assam Valley Districts Mouza by Mouza ?

1283. Will Government please state if the opium register is an open one ? If so, what is the number of new passes granted year by year in the Assam Valley Districts, Mouza by Mouza, from the closing of the register till the end of July 1937 ?

1284. Will Government please state the total opium revenue in 1936-37 ?

1285. Will Government be pleased to state the annual reduction of opium in maunds, seer, chattak due to 10 per cent. cut from year to year from 1928 till 1937 and consequent reduction of revenue ?

1286. Does Government provide in the budget every year the probable loss of revenue due to 10 per cent. cut policy of Government ?

1287. Will Government be pleased to state the number of opium eaters that died since the registration of opium consumers till 1937 and the reduction of opium due to such deaths ?

1288. Will Government be pleased to state how many new opium shops were opened since 1928 till 1937 and in what places ?

1289. What is the quantity of opium consumed in the Assam Valley Districts and Surma Valley Districts separately in the year 1936-37 ?

1290. Does Government mean to stop the internal trade of opium traffic in the province ?

1291. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy Assam is at liberty to ask the Government of India to stop opium trade at once and reduce the opium cultivation proportionately to save the Assamese people from the misery, unhappiness, physical and moral degradation ?

1292. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of opium since 1924-25 till 1936-37 in a tabular form year by year and the quantity of opium issued from the Government treasury during the period ?

1293. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the drastic method taken in China to stop opium consumption ?

1294. Do Government know that there is a net work of Ryot Sabha organisation all over the province and that these Ryot Sabhas favour total prohibition of opium ?

1295. Are Government prepared to punish smugglers with transportation for life of ten years hard labour or with confiscation of their properties ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1282. (*i*)—The system was first introduced as an experimental measure in the Sadiya Frontier Tracts in 1919. The measure in force then was subsequently introduced in the plains districts at different stages between 1924 and 1926. The system was in full force throughout the province from 1st April, 1926.

(*ii*)—The total number of registered consumers at the end of the year 1926-27 in the province was a little over 98,000 of whom 91,804 were in the Assam Valley Districts. Mauzawari figures are not available.

1283.—The majority of the Assam Opium Enquiry Committee, 1933, recommended that the registers should be reopened for the registration of all consumers of the age of 45 and above and that the widest publicity should be given to the opening of the registers. The late Government did not, however, accept the recommendation and decided that the registers should not be reopened for the registration of addicts and that opium in future should only be allowed for medical reasons and on a medical certificate. To that extent the Register may be called an open one. Mauzawari figures of new passes granted are not available.

1284.—Rupees 13,70,247.

1285.—The hon. member will see from the reply to question 1292 the annual reductions which have taken place in the issues of opium from the treasuries. It is impossible to say with any degree of accuracy what amount of this reduction is due to the annual 10 per cent. reduction as there are other causes which affect the reduction, *e.g.*, deaths of consumers, abandonment of the habit, etc.

1286.—The reduced income from opium is of course given in the budget estimates from year to year.

1287.—The information is not available.

1288.—The number and places of new opium shops opened during the years since 1928 till 1937 are given below—

1928-29.—Nil.

1929-30.—Nil.

1930-31.—Two in Lakhimpur district, *i.e.*, one at Grahambazar in Dibrugarh subdivision and one at Rangajan in North Lakhimpur subdivision.

1931-32—One at Umbasso in the Jowai subdivision of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district.

1932-33—Four in the Lakhimpur district, *i.e.*, three at Kutuha, Sessa and Tingrai in Dibrugarh subdivision and one at Fulbari in the North Lakhimpur subdivision.

1933-34—Nil.

1934-35—Two, *i.e.*, one at Juri in the South Sylhet subdivision and one at Maibong in the North Cachar Hills subdivision.

1935-36—One at Sarupathar in the Golaghat subdivision of the Sibsagar district.

1936-37—Nil.

The total of new shops opened since 1928-29 is, therefore, 10. During the same period 22 opium shops were closed.

1289.—Assam Valley—204 maunds 28 seers.
Surma Valley— 23 ,, 23 ,,

1290.—If the member refers to smuggling the answer is yes.

1291.—The question is not understood.

1292.—The quantities of opium issued annually from the Government treasuries since 1924-25 are as follows—

	Mds.	sr.	tola
1924-25	933	27	0
1925-26	830	19	40
1926-27	759	6	40
1927-28	756	15	32
1928-29	624	38	15
1929-30	599	27	9
1930-31	514	28	0
1931-32	428	34	79
1932-33	359	9	12
1933-34	317	11	35
1934-35	298	29	67
1935-36	270	27	77
1936-37	237	10	39

1293.—No.

1294.—Government knows of the existence of a certain number of such associations. Some of them probably favour total prohibition.

1295.—Smugglers are punished under the law not by Government.

Functions and record of work done by the Agriculture and Live-Stock Departments

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1296. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The functions ?

(*b*) The record of work done by the Agriculture and Live-Stock Departments during the last five years ?

(*c*) The pay and allowances and respective technical qualifications of the following officers—

(*i*) The Four Deputy Directors of Agriculture (including the one in charge of the Live-stock) ?

(*ii*) The Marketing Officer ?

(*iii*) The Economic Botanist ?

(*iv*) The Fruit Inspectors ?

(*v*) The Entomologist ?

1297. Are Government aware that in the opinion of the public the said officers are practically doing no useful service and that these posts should be abolished ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1296.(*a*) and (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the annual reports of the Department of Agriculture for the last 5 years and the resolutions of Government thereon.

(*c*)—The following is the statement.

(*i*)—*Deputy Directors of Agriculture*—

Names	Pay	Qualifications
1. Mr. Fazlul Haque	Rs.800 in scale of Rs.250—260—280—20—460—20—560—30—620—30—800.	Diploma holder in Agriculture from the Poona Agricultural College.
2. Mr. L. Barthakur...	Rs.770 ditto ...	Studied Agriculture with Chemistry as a special subject, in the Tohoka University Sapporo, Japan. Also studied sugar manufacturing for one season in Formosa.
3. Mr. B. Das (Offg.)	Rs.475 ditto ...	Bachelor of Agriculture, from the Poona Agricultural College.
4. Mr. R. C. Woodford, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Live-stock.	Rs.770 ditto Overseas pay £.25 and £.30 when he will reach maximum.	1. Four years' course at Winchester Training College for a London B.Sc. degree, interrupted by the outbreak of war in 1914. 2. Two years course in Dairy Farming and Management in India held by Military Authorities in 1918-1920. Passed Indian Diploma of Dairying at the end of it and was appointed to Military Farms Department. 3. Course in preventive measures against animal diseases at the Muktesar Veterinary Research Institute, 1920.

Names	Pay	Qualifications
(*ii*)—		
Mr. L. K. Handique, Marketing Officer.	Rs.500, in scale of Rs. 450—25—550.	B.Sc. in Agriculture from the Edinburgh University.
(*iii*)—		
Dr. S. K. Mitra, Economic Botanist.	Rs.1,200, in scale of Rs. 500—50—1,200.	B.S. and M.S. University of California; Ph.D., Ohio State.
(*iv*)—		
Fruit Inspector, U P. C. Khongwir.	Rs.190, in scale of Rs. 125—150—160—10/2—240—20/2—300.	Holder of 2 years' certificate course from Nagpur Agricultural College.
(*v*)—*Entomological Assistants*—		
1. Babu Satya Ranjan Gupta.	Rs.260, in scale of Rs. 125—150—160—10/2—240—20/2—300.	Diploma Holder in Agriculture from the Poona Agricultural College.
2. Srijut Kanak Chandra Sarma (temporary).	Rs.80 fixed ...	B.Sc. (Calcutta University), specially trained in Entomology in the Toklai Experimental Station of the Indian Tea Association, Jorhat.

1297.—As the hon. member apparently thinks so, it appears that some members of the public are of that opinion.

Drawal of Jury tickets in Assam Valley Districts

SRIJUT JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked:

1298. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the existing procedure for the drawing of the jury tickets in the Assam Valley Districts?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some jurors are sure to get calls every year, while some do not get call at all?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some jurors, although they always travel by train, are being paid cart hire?

(*d*) Will Government please state the name of the person who keeps the jury tickets?

(*e*) Do Government propose to keep the jury tickets with the jury list in the personal custody of the Judge, Assam Valley Districts?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

1298.—The procedure is laid down in section 326 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*)—Government have no information.

(*e*)—No.

Number of posts in the Assam Educational Service

MAULAVI DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURI asked :

1299. Will Government be pleased to state how many posts are there in all, in the Assam Educational Service and how many of them excepting those for Muhammadan Education have up till now gone to the Muslims ?

1300. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of professors and lecturers serving in the Murari Chand College, Sylhet and the Cotton College, Gauhati, respectively showing the numbers of Muslims separately ?

1301. Will Government be pleased to state how many posts of professors and lecturers excepting the professors of Arabic and Persian have up till now been held by the Muslims ?

1302. Will Government be pleased to state whether any circular was issued defining the representation of different communities in Government services in Assam ?

1303. If the answer to question 129 is in the affirmative—

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the due number of Muslim representation in both the Colleges respectively ?

1304. Is it a fact that the Muslims are under-represented in Assam Educational Service ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1299.—Out of the 61 posts in the service 9 are held by Muhammadans of whom one is Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education and two are employed in the Sylhet Government Madrasa.

1300.—The total number of Professors and Lecturers in each of the Colleges is 27. There is one Muslim Professor and one Muslim Lecturer in the Cotton College, Gauhati and two Muslim Professors and one Muslim Lecturer in the Murarichand College, Sylhet. In addition a Muslim is now officiating as a Lecturer in the Murari Chand College.

1301.—One (one acting).

1302.—Yes, in respect to non-gazetted appointments only. Appointments to the Assam Educational Service are made by Government and there was no necessity for a circular.

1303.—There is no question of the "due number" of any community in any College. The Communal representation of a community in the Assam Educational Service must be calculated on the whole strength of the service and not on the number in any particular college.

1304.—Yes.

Expenditure incurred in maintaining the Criminal Investigation Department

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1305. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state what total expenditure is incurred by Government of Assam in mainaining the Criminal Investigation Department under the Government of Assam during the years 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

1306. (*a*) What is the number of (*i*) Officers, (*ii*) Informers, (*iii*) Watchers and (*iv*) other staff maintained by the Department in the year referred to in question 1305 ?

(*b*) What are the duties and functions of such officers, etc., referred to above ?

1307. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of political crimes ; and

(*b*) the number of non-political crimes detected by the Criminal Investigation Department which the Civil Police failed to detect ?

1308. Is it a fact that the activity of the Criminal Investigation Department in so far as detection of political crimes is concerned has been reduced to reporting about the movements of the Congress workers and their leaders and of censuring of letters ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1305.—

1935-36	... ...	Rs.2,60,727-6-9.
1936-37	... ...	Rs.2,37,302-10-5.

1306. (*a*)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the total number of the sanctioned strength of the Criminal Investigation Department as it stood on the 1st April 1935 and 1936

Cadre	Ranks	1935	1936	Remarks
Permanent Cadre ..	Deputy Inspector General of Police	1	1	
	Deputy Superintendent of Police	2	2	
	Inspectors	6	6	
	Sub-Inspectors	11	11	
	Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	14	14	(Eight Assistant Sub-Inspectors are attached to the Intelligence Branch).
	Head Constable	1	1	
	Constables	17	19	
	Stenographers	2	2	
Finger Print Bureau..	Inspector	1	1	
	Sub-Inspectors	3	4	
	Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	1	1	
		59	62	
Temporary Cadre (Intelligence Branch).	Additional Superintendent of Police	1	..	(Abolished from 1st April 1936).
	Inspectors	4	4	
	Sub-Inspectors	23	23	
	Assistant Sub-Inspectors ..	43	43	
	Constables	35	30	(Five posts transferred to Sylhet D. E. F. from 12th August 1935).
		06	100	
	Ministerial Staff	*13	*15	(*Including 4 temporary).
	Menials	†5	5	(†Including 1 temporary).
	Informers	..	..	

Note.—Assistant Sub-Inspectors are employed as Watchers.

(*b*)—The duties of Police Officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (which includes the Intelligence Branch) and the Finger Print Bureau) are to investigate intricate cases (both political and non-political) and cases in which prolonged enquiries in various places, both inside and outside the province have to be made, to collect information of interest to Government and to the Department and to collect information regarding all subversive movements and organisations, to maintain systematic records of crime and criminals and of persons connected with subversive activities; to disseminate intelligence through Departmental Gazettes; to collect finger impression slips of criminals in the province for search and record with a view to the identification of prisoners and to deal with correspondence received with regard to them.

1307. (*a*)—Three cases were detected by the Criminal Investigation Department Officers in 1935-36 in all of which the services of Criminal Investigation Department Officers were utilised from the beginning of the investigations. There was no crime of a political nature during 1936-37.

(*b*)—Eighteen cases were detected by Criminal Investigation Department Officers in 1935-36 and 26 in 1936-37. Out of them the local police failed in 6 cases in the former year and in 4 cases in the latter year. In all other cases the services of Criminal Investigation Department Officers were requisitioned from the beginning of the investigations.

1308.—No. Officers are engaged as stated in reply to question 1306(*b*).

Number of venture primary schools in Assam

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked:

1309. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the number of venture primary schools under each Local Board in Assam in the year 1936-37?

1310. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to make necessary provisions in the Budget for current year to make additional contribution to the Local Boards in Assam to take up the venture schools under their respective jurisdiction from January 1, 1938, which the Local Boards have not been able to take up for want of funds?

1311. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to make provisions for contribution to the Local Boards in Assam for improvement of the existing deplorable condition of the primary school buildings for the improvement of which the Local Boards cannot make any provision for want of funds?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1309.—

Name of Local Boards	Number of venture primary schools
North Sylhet Local Board	90
South Sylhet Local Board	67
Habiganj Local Board	115
Karimganj Local Board	64
Sunamganj Local Board	61
Silchar Local Board	75
Hailakandi Local Board	39

Name of Local Boards	Number of venture primary schools
North Lakhimpur Local Board	19
Dibrugarh Local Board	40
Sibsagar Local Board	19
Jorhat Local Board	47
Golaghat Local Board	23
Nowgong Local Board	88
Tezpur Local Board	37
Mangaldai Local Board	20
Gauhati Local Board...	131
Barpeta Local Board	54
Goalpara Local Board	41
Dhubri Local Board	21
Total	1,051

1310 and 1311.—A provision of half a lakh recurring has been made in the current year's budget to enable Local Bodies to take over venture schools. As the full amount of the grant cannot be spent on recurring charges during the current year it should be possible to provide something for the improvement of the school buildings.

Introduction of title classes in the Sylhet Government Madrassa Alia

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1312. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to introduce title classes in the Sylhet Government Madrasa Alia ? If so, when ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1312.—Yes. This year if the Assembly passes the provision for this purpose in the budget.

Number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1313. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge state the following :—

(1) Number of persons killed by—

(*a*) wild elephants,

(*b*) Tigers,

(*c*) wild boars,

(*d*) other wild animals,

year by year, for the last five years, in the province ?

(2) What special steps, if any, have Government taken for prevention of deaths from such causes ?

(3) If so, what ?

(4) If not, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take special steps for prevention of deaths from such causes.

1314. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please give the following information—

(1) Number of deaths from snake bites for the last seven years, year by year,

(*a*) in the province,
(*b*) in the Surma Valley,
(*c*) in the Brahmaputra Valley,
(*d*) in the Sunamganj subdivision.

(2) What steps, if any, have Government taken for reducing the number of deaths from such causes ?

(3) If none, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take early steps ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1313.(1)—

	(*a*) Wild elephants	(*b*) Tigers	(*c*) Wild boars	(*d*) Other wild animals
1932	22	84	8	33
1933	33	82	7	28
1934	26	59	1	31
1935	24	92	6	30
1936	18	74	4	24

(2) & (3).—Rewards are paid by Government for killing such dangerous animals.

(4)—Does not arise.

1314.(1)—(*a*) 1930—145
1931—182
1932—127
1933—148
1934—195
1935—207
1936—151

(*b*) 1930— 21
1931— 26
1932— 28
1933— 30
1934— 40
1935— 46
1936— 33

(*c*) 1930— figures not available.
1931—156
1932— 99
1933—118
1934—155
1935—161
1936—118

(*d*) 1930—, 1931—, 1932—, 1933— } figures not available.
1934— 11
1935— 13
1936— 8

(2)—Rewards are paid by Government for the destruction of poisonous snakes.

(3)—Does not arise.

Appointment of discharged prisoners

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1315. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Judicial Minister be pleased to state whether the communal interests are considered in matters of appointments of discharged prisoners ? If not, why not ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state community by community the numbers of appointments from the creation of the Discharged Prisoners Society ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1315. (*a*) and (*b*)—It is not clear from the hon. member's question what appointments he refers to. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society has not uptil now recommended any discharged prisoner for any appointment under Government. The Society endeavours to assist all discharged prisoners in need of help, irrespective of race or creed.

Allotment of money granted by Central Government for village improvement in South Sylhet Subdivision

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1316. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the amount of money granted by the Central Government for village improvement has been spent in the South Sylhet Subdivision ?

(*b*) What benefit, if any, has South Sylhet Subdivision derived from the said amount ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that good water supply is the crying need of the subdivision ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1316. (*a*)—Twenty-five reinforced concrete wells are being constructed out of the allotment for water supply and 9 iron bridges on village roads have been built out of the allotment for village roads. In addition Rs.1,300 will be spent on sanitation and Rs.1,200 on other works of public utility such as the construction of bunds for paddy cultivation. The above details relate only to the allotment to this subdivision out of the first grant of 5 lakhs given by the Central Government. Further schemes will be taken up from the allotment out of the second grant of five lakhs which has been promised by the Government of India.

(*b*)—The benefits have been mentioned in reply to (*a*) above.

(*c*)—Yes.

Closure of Sub-Registry offices on the last Saturday of the month

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1317. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the rural Sub-Registry offices are debarred to enjoy the "Last Saturday Holiday" ?

(*b*) If so, why ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1317. (*a*)—The hon. member is apparently referring to rural offices in Sylhet as the "last Saturday holiday" is unknown in the Assam Valley. If so, the answer is the "last Saturday" holiday is not, so far as Government is aware, enjoyed by rural Sub-Registrars.

(*b*)—The decision as regards the closure of offices on the last Saturday has always been regarded as resting with the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner— it is an old custom acquiesced in rather than ordered by Government. The question of extending the "last Saturday holiday" to rural Sub-Registry offices was raised a few years ago but the Deputy Commissioner did not recommend it and Government see no reason to interfere with his discretion.

Circular issued by the Director of Public Instruction *re* appointment of Muhammadan teachers

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

1318. Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction has issued a circular to the Secretaries of the Aided High Schools asking them to appoint Muhammadan teachers in proportion to the number of Muhammadan pupils in each school ?

1319. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Public Instruction did so with the approval of Government ?

1320. If the reply to question No.1319 is in the negative, do Government propose to direct the Director of Public Instruction to withdraw the said circular ? If not, why not ?

1321. If the reply to question No.1319 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for considering, that the proportion of students belonging to different communities will remain steady for a definite period, for the intended application of the Director of Public Instruction's circular ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1318.—Yes.

1319.—The Director of Public Instruction issued the circular under the orders of the late Government.

1320.—Does not arise.

1321.—It was not considered that the proportion of students belonging to different communities would remain steady for a definite period. The question of the appointment of a Hindu or a Muhammadan teacher will depend, when a vacancy occurs, on the proportion of students belonging to the different communities at the time.

Professor Surendra Chandra Gupta of Murarichand College

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked:

1322. Will Government please state who is officiating in Professor Surendra Chandra Gupta's place in the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?

(*a*) What are his qualifications ?

(*b*) Did he get a first class in his M. A. Examination ?

(*c*) If so, from which University ?

(*d*) Was he an honours student in his degree class ?
(*e*) If so, what class did he get ?
(*f*) Did Government advertise the post when he was taken in in the Murarichand College ?
(*g*) Was he relieved on the eve of the last summer vacation ?
(*h*) If not, why not ?
(*i*) Is it not the policy of Government to relieve temporary incumbents on the eve of every vacation ?
(*j*) If so, what made Government to deviate from their policy in this particular case ?
(*k*) Do Government propose to advertise this post in near future ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1322.—Maulavi Abu Sayid Ahmed.
(*a*)—M. A., 2nd class, 3rd in the University.
(*b*)—No.
(*c*)—Does not arise.
(*d*)—Yes.
(*e*)—Third class.
(*f*)—Yes, when he was appointed in September 1936 in place of Dr. Gupta.
(*g*)—No.
(*h*)—Because he was appointed in a vacancy which is expected to last for 28 months.
(*i*)—Only when they are occupying short vacancies.
(*j*)—Does not arise.
(*k*)—The post will be filled by Government on the advice of the Public Service Commission in the usual manner when the vacancy becomes permanent.

Police officer of South Salmara Thana

MAULAVI SHEIKH OSMAN ALI SADAGAR asked :

1323. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Police Officer of the South Salmara thana of Goalpara has been asked to watch the movement of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, M. L. A. ?
1324. If the answer of the question No. 1323 is in the affirmative, do Government consider that there is sufficient reason for doing so ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1323.—No.
1324.—Does not arise.

Assault case in Biheating Tea Estate

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1325. (*a*) Is it a fact that recently in June last a Revenue Peon in uniform was assaulted by a European Tea Garden employee of Biheating Tea Estate and the peon's 'Sarkari' belt was snatched away and kept back for going by a path leading to the peon's village and passing through the Garden ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the "Sarkari" belt in the wearing of the peon was snatched away and taken back by the European Planter ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what action the Deputy Commissioner has taken to recover the "Sarkari" belt ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1325. (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—There was an altercation near the Tea House, between the Manager, Beheating and a Nazarat Peon in the course of which the former took away the latter's chapras which he subsequently returned. The Manager was prosecuted, convicted on his own admission under section 352, Indian Penal Code, and fined Rs.30.

Recommendation of the Enquiry Committee

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1326. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Excise please state—

(*a*) the recommendation of the Opium Enquiry Committee appointed by the last Council to the Government of Assam ?

(*b*) what action Government took on the recommendation ?

(*c*) number of new passes issued in each of the districts of Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1326. (*a*)—The recommendations of the Opium Enquiry Committee are contained in their printed report a copy of which will be found in the Library.

(*b*)—The action taken by Government is contained in their Resolution on the Report. A copy of the Resolution (No.4355-L.S.-G., dated the 3rd December 1934) is available in the Library.

(e)—The following statement gives the number of passes issued during the last three years—

Statement showing the number of new opium passes issued for the last three years in each of the Districts of Assam Valley

Districts	Number of new opium passes								
	1934-35			1935-36			1936-37		
	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Goalpara	2	1	3	4	6	10	3	8	11
Kamrup	4	18	22	16	31	47	1	21	22
Darrang	2	115	117	37	55	92	46	81	127
Nowgong	50	127	177	240	328	568	13	14	27
Sibsagar	248	488	736	193	648	841	227	192	419
Lakhimpur	49	218	267	102	164	266	86	150	236
Garo Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	355	967	1,322	592	1,232	1,824	376	466	842

Condition of the road leading to Murarichand College

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI asked :

1327. Are Government aware of the fact that the students of the Murarichand College meet with numerous accidents on their way to the College due to pits and unevenness of the road ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1327. -No, but Government are aware of the dreadful condition of the Municipal Road leading to the College.

Assam School Service

ŚRIJUT SANKAR CHANDRA BARUA asked :

1328. Will Government be pleased to state :
(*a*) How many classes are there in the Assam School Service, giving designations and scales of pay of each ?
(*b*) The total number of posts in each class in each valley ?

1329. Will Government be pleased to state what class of Assam School Service do the Deputy Inspectors of Schools and Head Masters of Government High Schools belong to ?

1330. Will Government be pleased to state what class of Assam School Service do the Sub-Inspectors of Schools and English teachers of Government High Schools belong to ?

1331. Will Government be pleased to state how the posts of Deputy Inspector of Schools and Head Masters of Government High Schools are filled up when there are vacancies ?

1332. Will Government be pleased to state how the post of Assistant Head Masters are filled up in case of vacancies ?

1333. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the average number of years, taken by Sub-Inspectors of Schools promoted from 1929 to 1936, for promotion to class " I " of Assam School Service, also that of English teachers for promotion to the posts of Assistant Head Masters, and also that of Assistant Head Masters for promotion to the posts of Head Masters ?

1334. Will Government be pleased to state the average number of years required by English Teachers, promoted from 1929 to 1936 for promotion to the post of Head Master of Government High Schools ?

1335. Is it a fact that the number of years, taken for promotion to class " I " of Assam School Service by the Sub-Inspector of Schools, is less than that required by the English Teachers of Government High Schools ?

1336.(*a*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspectors of Schools are not required to serve in class " II " of the Assam School Service before they are promoted to class I ?

1337. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Sub-Inspectors, and English teachers in Government High Schools in each Valley ?

1338.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many Sub-Inspectors in both the Valleys retired as Sub-Inspectors in class III of the Assam School Service from the year 1920 to 1936 without being promoted to class I of Assam School Service ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state what were the qualifications of each such Sub-Inspector of Schools ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state how many English teachers of both the Valleys in Class III of the Assam School Service retired from the year 1920 to 1936 without being promoted to Class II of Assam School Service ? (Number in each Valley to be separately shown) ?

1339. Is it a fact that the present Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, belongs to the Kamrup district ?

1340. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing (*i*) the number of teachers of Government High Schools transferred to the posts of the Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle from the year 1929 to 1936 ?

(*ii*) the date of birth, date of substantive appointment, qualifications whether a honours graduate or a distinguished graduate or an ordinary graduate or a L.T., home district of each teacher the school transferred from the date of transfer to the post of Sub-Inspectors of Schools and the circle where posted, and the present pay of each teacher,

(*iii*) the total number of such officers, belonging to the Kamrup district alone,

(*iv*) the total number of such officers, who are Brahmins by caste ?

(*b*) (*i*) Will Government be pleased to state how many outsiders, holding no substantive appointment in the Education Department, were appointed to the posts of Sub-Inspectors in the Assam Valley Circle from the year 1929 to 1936 ?

(*ii*) Will Government be pleased to state the grounds for such direct appointments giving the date of appointment of each outsider ?

(*c*) (*i*) Will Government be pleased to state whether there were other English teachers of Government High Schools in Assam Valley Circle, who wanted a transfer to the post of Sub-Inspector of Schools from 1929 to 1936 ?

(*c*) (*ii*) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the name of each such teacher with date of his birth, date of substantive appointment, qualifications whether a honours graduate or a distinguished graduate or a L.T., the home district and the school where the post was held ?

(*iii*) Will Government be pleased to state in each case the ground for refusing their prayer for a transfer to the post of a Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle ?

1341. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the names of officers who are now holding the posts of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle, the date of substantive appointments the name of the circle where posted, the caste and the district they belong to, qualifications whether an honours graduate or an ordinary graduate in the pass course or a L. T. and the present pay of each ? (Sub-Inspectors engaged for a special purpose or in Hill Tracts to be separately shown.)

(*b*) (*i*) W ll Government be pleased to name from the list which two of the Sub-Inspectors are senior most who are only I.A. and L.T.?

(*ii*) Will Government be pleased to state why these two officers were selected for the posts of Sub-Inspectors when there were graduate teachers in these same grade ?

(*iii*) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are Graduate English teachers in Government High Schools, senior to any one of them in service ?

(*vi*) Is it a fact that in the Circular issued by Mr. Roberts, the Acting Director of Public Instruction, it was mentioned for general information that English teachers of Government High Schools, who are not graduates would not be promoted to Class II of the Assam School Service ?

(*vii*) Is it a fact that such undergraduate English teachers of Government High Schools are required to retire from Class III of the Assam School Service ?

(*c*),(*i*) Will Government be pleased to state how many Sub-Inspectors of Schools called for in question (*a*) are Brahmins, Kayasthas or Kolitas and how many are Mussalmans ?

(*ii*) Will Government be pleased to state how many non-Muhammadan Sub-Inspectors of Schools belong to the Kamrup district alone ?

(*iii*) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of the posts of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle, excluding those for special purpose and Mikir Hills, if there be any, held by Brahmins alone ?

(*iv*) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of the posts of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the Assam Valley Circle, excluding those for special purpose and the Mikir Hills, if there be any, held by men district by district ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1328. (*a*)—There are three classes with scales of pay as follows :—

Class I—Rs. 150—12½—250—12½—350 with Selection Grade on Rs. 400.

Class II—Rs. 150—10—250.

Class III—1928 scales of pay Rs. 75—5—125—5—175—5—200.

Class III—1925 scales of pay Rs. 75—5—100—5—125—10—175.

Class III—1932 scales of pay Rs. 75—4—115—4—155—4—175.

(*b*)—The following statement gives the information :—

	Class I	Class II	Class III
Assam Valley Division ...	26	13	179+1 vacant.
Surma Valley and Hill Division.	18+1 vacant.	9+1 vacant.	161+2 vacant.

1329.—Class I

1330.—Class III.

1331.—By the promotion of suitable officers.

1332.—By the promotion of suitable officers.

1333, 1334 and 1335.—The compilation of the required information would take some months and would not be commensurate with the waste of time and labour involved.

1336.(*a*)—Yes.

1337 and 1338.—The compilation of the required information would take some months and would not be commensurate with the waste of time and labour involved.

1339.—Yes.

1340 and 1341.—The compilation of the required information would take some months and would not be commensurate with the waste of time and labour involved.

Smuggling of opium

SRIJUT JADAV PROSAD CHALIHA asked :

1342. Is it a fact that smuggling of opium is going on on an extensive scale?

1343. If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to combat the evil ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1342.—Yes.

1343.—Government maintain a Special Branch of the Excise Department (corresponding to the Criminal Investigation Department in the Police Department) whose main duty is to track down smugglers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 28h August 1937)

Number of Criminal prosecutions under the Motor Vehicles Act in the Gauhati subdivision

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

1344. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of criminal prosecutions under the Motor Vehicles Act in the Gauhati subdivision during the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 upto July 1937 ?

(*b*) How many cases have ended in convictions and how many in acquittal and how many cases have been withdrawn during the aforesaid period ?

1345. (*a*) Is it a fact that almost in all cases, in which conviction has been secured only the police were the prosecution witnesses ?

(*b*) In others in which there were outside and independent witnesses there have been good many acquittals ?

1346. Will Government please state—

(*a*) The percentage of the convictions of the cases in which the police were witnesses ?

(*b*) The percentage of cases of convictions in which there were independent witnesses also ?

1347. Do Government propose to insist the police to cite independent witnesses wherever available ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1344.—	1935		From 1st January 1936 to 31st July 1937
(*a*)—	122	...	272
(*b*)—Convicted	88	...	209
Acquitted	13	...	39
Dropped, struck-off or filed	4	...	10
Pending at the end of the period.	17	...	14

1345. (*a*)—No. During the period from 1st August 1936 to 31st July 1937, out of the 154 cases which ended in conviction only in 93 cases Police witnesses were cited and in the remaining 61, both Police and outsider witnesses were cited.

(*b*)—No. During the same period, out of the 34 cases which ended in acquittal, only in 15 cases both Police and outsiders were witnesses and in the remaining 19 there were Police witnesses.

1346. (*a*)—The percentage of conviction of the cases in which police were witnesses was 60·38 ;

(*b*)—The percentage of cases of convictions in which there were independent witnesses was 39·61.

} During the period from 1st August 1936 to 31st July 1937. For the period prior to that the case records are not available.

1347.—Independent witnesses are cited whenever they are available and Government see no need for issuing orders in this respect.

Number of Inspections done by all the Superintendents of Police in the province during the last 3 years

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked :

1348. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(1) The total number of Inspections done by all the Superintendents of Police in the province during the last 3 years ?

(2) In how many cases the Superintendents of Police in the province tendered specific advice in regard to the investigation of individual cases ?

(3) Total amount of money drawn by the Superintendents of Police as travelling allowance in inspection of thanas within their jurisdiction ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1348. (1)—A statement is laid on the library table.

(2)—A statement showing the number of cases locally supervised by the Superintendents of police is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES LOCALLY SUPERVISED BY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE

Districts	1934	1935	1936
1. Sylhet	11	39	28
2. Cachar	39	45	56
3. Goalpara	16	12	12
4. Kamrup	56	31	21
5. Darrang	22	18	41
6. Nowgong	89	48	67
7. Sibsagar	13	59	106
8. Lakhimpur	35	62	56
9. Government Railway Police	14	6	5
Total ...	295	320	392

(3) No separate figures are available as the Superintendents of police invariably combine their inspections with other departmental work. A statement showing the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by the Superintendents of plains districts is however, laid on the library table.

Average area of land in bighas held by Assamese and immigrant *patta* holders

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1349. Will Government be pleased to state average area of land in bighas held by (*a*) the Assamese *patta* holders (*b*) the immigrant *patta* holders in each of the following Mauzas :—Mayang, Bokani, Laharighat, Juria and Laokhowa ?

1350. Is it a fact that the Local Assamese people of Salpara village in Juria Mauza in the district of Nowgong, have left the village, and gone elsewhere, selling or otherwise disposing of their ancestral lands to the immigrants ?

1351. Do Government know the circumstances which compelled them to quit the place for good ?

(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to place those circumstances before the House ?

1352. Are Government aware that there are many other Assamese villages that are contemplating to follow in the footsteps of the Salpara village under the same circumstances ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1349.—

Name of mauza	Average of areas held by Assamese *patta* holders	Average of areas held by immigrant *patta* holders
1. Mayang	6·43	11·04
2. Bokoni	8·90	12·76
3. Lahorighat	9·24	12·44
4. Juria	8·66	13·17
5. Laokhoa	10·90	13·70

1350 —Yes.

1351.—The circumstances are not known, (*a*) Does not arise.

1352.—Government have no information.

Number of arbitration cases during the last 3 years

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1353. Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases sent to arbitration for the last three years, district by district, and year by year ?

1354. Will Government be pleased to state the number of arbitration cases that have been pending before Inspectors for the last three years district by district, and year by year ?

1355. Is it a fact that the Assistant Registrar decides the arbitration cases from the rural societies ?

1356. Does the Assistant Registrar personally and locally enquire into each case ? If not, who does ?

1357. Will Government consider the desirability of empowering the Inspectors to decide arbitration cases so as to enable the debtor members to represent their cases personally and fully, and to avoid inordinate delay in the disposal of the arbitration cases ?

1358. Will Government be pleased to state whether the village societies are experiencing great difficulties in the execution of arbitration awards ?

1359. Is it a fact that in many cases the expenses of execution are beyond all reasonable proportion ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1353.—District figures are not available. The total number of cases referred to arbitration during the years 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36 was however 1453, 1868 and 2031 respectively.

1354.—Arbitration cases are dealt with by the Registrar and the Assistant Registrars and not by Inspectors. The Inspectors are only authorised to issue notices and the number of cases pending for the issue of notices with them is not available.

1355.—Yes.

1356.—No. The procedure of dealing with arbitration cases is stated in answer to the next question.

1357.—As a matter of convenience and to avoid delay, the Inspectors have been authorized by the Registrar to issue preliminary notices only in arbitration cases. The debtor-members are served with notices to show cause why decision should not be given in favour of the societies. In the case of disputed claims the debtors are allowed to represent their cases either personally or through arbitrators to be nominated by them. The Board of arbitrators may make local inquiry if necessary. Government do not consider it desirable to delegate the power of the Registrar to the Inspectors to decide such cases.

1358 and 1359.—Yes. In order to avoid such difficulties new draft rules have been framed empowering the societies to realize the amount under awards through the Deputy Commissioner of the district as arrears of land revenue. The draft rules have already been published in the *Assam Gazette* and are now under the consideration of Government.

Establishment of a Second Chamber in Assam

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1360. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether a signed petition was submitted to Government for transmission to the Secretary of State for India in Council for establishing a Second Chamber in Assam ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to place on the table the names of the signatories and the contents of the petition ?

(*c*) Has Government made any recommendations on receipt of the representation to His Majesty's Government for the establishment of a Second Chamber in Assam ?

(*d*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the recommendation ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1360.(*a*)—No.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*)—Do no arise.

Establishment of an Industrial School at Barpeta

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1361. Do Government propose to start an Industrial School with advanced pottery, carpentry and smithy (Iron) works at Barpeta ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1361.—No.

Murarichand College, Sylhet

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI asked :

1362. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that the Principal, Murarichand College, Sylhet, has refused applications of a number of students seeking admission in Civics branch in the said college ?

1363. Is it a fact that the staff for teaching Civics in the Murarichand College is not sufficient and this is why the applications of the students were rejected ?

1364. If the answer to question No. 1363 be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to increase the staff ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1362.—Yes.

1363.—Applications were refused partly owing to insufficiency of staff and partly owing to insufficiency of accommodation.

1364.—Yes. Government have already taken steps to do so by sanctioning a post of temporary tutor in Civics.

Present economic distress of the cultivators

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1365.(*a*) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture recognise that the abnormal fall of the price of agricultural produces is one of the principal causes of the present economic distress of our cultivators ?

(*b*) If so, have Government taken any effective steps so far to remedy the economic distress ?

(*c*) If so, what ?

(*d*) If not, do Government propose to constitute a Committee to investigate the causes and suggest remedial measures

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1365.(*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—Yes.
(*c*)—The principal step was the giving of relief to the cultivators by a remission of Land Revenue.
(*d*)—Does not arise.

Chamata High English School in Kamrup District

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1366. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education aware—
(*a*) that the Chamata High English School in Kamrup district is an important school which furnishes facilities for getting English education to large number of children belonging to the peasant class ;
(*b*) that it is being maintained by a Registered Society called "the Dharmapur Siksha Bistar Samiti" the members of which are mostly cultivators and have paid Rs.100 each as their subscriptions ;
(*c*) that owing to economic depression the number of students has greatly fallen and the school is badly in need of Government aid ;
(*d*) that the Managing Committee has been repeatedly appealing to the Education Department for aid for improving the staff and keeping the school in a solvent condition ?

1367. If so, do Government propose to grant some substantial aid to the school from the current year ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1366. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—Yes.
(*c*)—Yes.
(*d*)—Yes.

1367.—Yes—if the increased provision for grants-in-aid in the budget is passed by the Assembly.

Dismissal of Babu Krishna Kumar Das, late Assistant Head Master of Shaistaganj Aided High School

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1368. (*a*) Will Government please state why the services of Babu Krishna Kumar Das, B.A., the late Assistant Headmaster of the Shaistaganj Aided High School, were dispensed with ?
(*b*) Is it a fact, his dismissal was ordered just on the eve of the last general election and that he contested the then Judicial Member of the Assam Government in the South Habiganj General Constituency ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1368. (*a*)—The services of Babu Krishna Kumar Das, B.A., late Assistant Master (not Assistant Head Master) of the Shaistaganj High School, were dispensed with as a disciplinary action for overstaying leave and absenting himself from duty without previous permission and in direct contravention of the Secretary's orders.

(*b*)—The School Committee passed a resolution dismissing him on the 3rd January 1937. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

Names of the present tenderers who collect tolls for the Keane Bridge and rates of tolls realised

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1369.(*a*) Will Government please state the names of the present tenderers who collect tolls for the Keane Bridge and the rates of tolls realised ?

(*b*) For how many years the present lessee has been given the lease for ferry service on the Surma River ?

(*c*)(*i*) Is it a fact that the motor drivers of the Sylhet town petitioned Government for the exemption of realisation of extra tolls per taxi and per bus for crossing the Keane Bridge in addition to quarterly permits issued, (*ii*) If so, will Government please state the reasons for rejecting the petitions ?

(*d*) Is Government aware that the drivers did not purchase quarterly tickets and thereby enhanced their rate of fare to the great inconvenience of the travelling public ?

(*e*) Do Government propose to reconsider their petitions (*i*) Is it a fact that it is under contemplation of Government to reduce the contracted tolls of the lessee ?

(*f*) (*i*) Will Government please state whether the villagers coming to Sylhet town and going therefrom derive any benefit from the Keane Bridge, which had swallowed a large amount of public money, (*ii*) Is it a fact that far from being benefitted they have to pay tolls for crossing the bridge if they are required to do so when they come to the town ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1369.(*a*)—Babu Harisankhar Prasad Singh. Notifications fixing the rates of tolls to be levied at the Bridge are placed on the Library table.

(*b*)—One year from the 1st April 1937.

(*c*) (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—No. The petitions were rejected after careful consideration.

(*d*)—It is understood that some taxis have not taken out the concessional permits. It is entirely at their own option whether they do so or not.

(*e*) and (*i*)—No.

(*f*) (*i*) and (*ii*)—It is a matter of opinion. But the hon. member should be aware of the fact that previously the same tolls were charged for crossing the ferries.

Assessment and realisation of grazing dues

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1370. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of grazing dues assessed and the amount realised for the last five years in the Tezpur and the Mangaldai subdivisions ?

1371.(*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, has ordered attachment of immovable properties even of the defaulters of the grazing dues ?

(*b*) If so, whether any land has been sold thereof from amongst the Assamese cultivators ?

1372. Is it a fact that owing to the revision of the grazing rules many Assamese cultivators who were previously exempted from the grazing dues are again assessed ?

1373. Is it a fact that belongings of many defaulting graziers other than cattle are sold inspite of their representations and appeals ?

1374. What steps are taken to realise arrears from the graziers other than *bonafide* cultivators ?

1375. Is it a fact that several mauzadars of the Tezpur subdivision have requisitioned the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, for police help in realising their Government dues (after the classification of the mauzadars according to their payment of revenues) for the year 1343B.S.?

1376. If so, will Government please state (*a*) what were the grounds of their requisitions ?

(*b*) Whether the Deputy Commissioner has sanctioned such help ?

1377. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) what police force have been employed for the purpose ?

(*b*) for how many days they were thus employed ?

(*c*) who paid their monthly salaries or allowances (if any) ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1370.—A statement is laid on the Library table.

1371.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1372.—Yes, but only those Assamese cultivators who had dairy business within the meaning of the Grazing Rules were assessed to grazing dues.

1373.—No.

1374.—Arrear grazing dues are realised as arrear of land revenue.

1375.—It is not a fact that *several* mauzadars of this subdivision have been given police help in realising Government revenue for 1343B.S.

1376. (*a*), (*b*) and 1377. (*a*), (*b*)—A bad defaulter in one mauza forcibly took away his attached property from Mauzadar's man and it was subsequently reported by the Mauzadar that it would be very difficult to realise revenue from other defaulters of the village unless police help was given to him as the people had formed a party not to pay Government dues.

Two constables were accordingly deputed for 2 weeks to keep the peace at the time of realisation of revenue at the village.

(*c*)—The constables were paid by Government and received no extra allowance.

"Newspaper article regarding Local Board address to Governor Validity of meeting questioned"

SRIJUT LAKHESWAR BARUA asked :

1378. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to enquire and state whether the special and ordinary meetings of Dibrugarh Local Board held on 6th April 1937, were convened at 10 days' notice as required by the Statutory Orders under Local Self-Government Act ?

(*b*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister and the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division drawn to the note headed "Local Board address to Governor Validity of meeting questioned" that appeared in the *Times of Assam* of 17th April 1937 ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Commissioner is required to see that the proceedings of the meetings of the Local Boards are carried on in accordance with law ?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether the Commissioner investigated into the matter and passed the proceedings of the above meetings as valid ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that no notices were issued to 3 members of the Dibrugarh Local Board about the meeting of 6th April 1937, and is it also a fact that in that special meeting 'Election of Vice-Chairman of the Board' was one of the items of agenda and one of those 3 members wanted to stand as a candidate for this office ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1378. (*a*)—The Chairman reports that 10 days' notice was not given.

(*b*)—Government have seen the article.

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—The Commissioner recently received a petition on the subject from certain members of the Board and the matter is being enquired into by him.

(*e*)—It is reported that notices of this particular meeting were not issued to the three members who were away from Dibrugarh. Election of Vice-Chairman was an item in the agenda of this meeting. It is not known if one of these three members wished to stand a candidate.

Refreshment rooms of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1379. (*a*) Is it a fact that in the Refreshment Rooms leased out to Muslims and Hindus by the Assam-Bengal Railway Company there is no sleeping accommodation of Managers and servants ?

(*b*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to remove the grievances ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that there are no stock rooms for live-stocks in the Refreshment Rooms ?

(*d*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to move the Railway authority to remove the grievances ?

1380. (*a*) Is it a fact that passenger's carriages of passenger trains on the Assam-Bengal Railway stop outside the station yards ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the passengers especially women find much difficulty in ascending up and descending from the train ?

(*c*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to remove the public inconveniences ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1379. (*a*)—Government have no information.

(*b*)—No. The Assembly representatives on the Advisory Committee of the Railway may raise the question if they so desire.

(*c*)—Government have no information.

(*d*)—No. *See* (*b*) above.

1380. (*a*)—*See* 1379 (*a*) above.

(*b*)—Government have no information on the matter.

(*c*)—The hon. member is referred to 1379 (*b*) above.

Number of Revenue appeals filed before His Excellency the Governor during the last five years

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1381. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the number of Revenue appeals filed before His Excellency the Governor of Assam in Council during the last five years showing the figures of every year separately ?

(*b*) How many of these revenue appeals referred in (*a*) above were (*i*) allowed, (*ii*) modified, (*iii*) dismissed.

1382. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of sittings of the Revenue Tribunal during the months of April, May and June 1937, month by month ?

(*b*) The number of appeals heard by the Revenue Tribunal during the aforesaid months, month by month ?

(*c*) The total annual cost of the Revenue Tribunal including establishment and contingencies ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1381. (*a*) and (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 891 (*a*) to (*d*) asked by Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah at this Session of the Assembly.

1382. (*a*)—The member attended his office every working day of these months.

(*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 529 asked by Khan Sahib Maulvi Sayidur Rahman at this session of the Assembly.

(*c*)—The hon. member is referred to page 67 of the Budget for 1937-38 which gives eleven months' figures only. The expenditure may vary slightly from year to year with changes or increments in the pay of the staff.

Enforcement of the Sylhet Tenancy Act

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1383. Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter published over the signature of Babu Haladhar Bhowmick, a Pleader of Sylhet Bar, in the *Sylhet Chronicle* in its issue of March 15th, 1937 ?

1384. If so, do Government propose to meet the situation, created by the enforcement of the Sylhet Tenancy Act and the publication of the rules made under the Act ?

1385.(*a*) Is it a fact that the Treasury Officer, Sunamganj, refused to allow the deposits of the landlord's fees to be made in the treasury as he did not get proper guidance earlier ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Babu Ashutush Das Gupta, Munsif, Sunamganj, by a letter addressed to the District Judge, Sylhet, sought the advice of the latter as to how he would deal with the situation created by the refusal of the Treasury Officer, to entertain the deposit of the Landlord's Transfer Fees ?

1386. Is it a fact that a special officer was appointed in connection with the preparation of the Sylhet Tenancy Bill and the rules to be made under the Sylhet Tenancy Act, 1936, and also for the timely publication of the rules finally made ?

1387. Is it a fact that the copies of the Sylhet Tenancy Act and the rules were not ready for sale before the date when the Act came in force ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1383.—Not until the receipt of this question.

1384.—It is not understood what situation Government is required to meet. Under section 209 of the Act it is laid down that Government can make rules *from time to time* to carry out the provisions of the Act after previous publication. The rules in this case were published for criticism in the *Assam Gazette* of 6th January 1937.

1385.(*a*)—No. Challans for credit of landlords' fees were presented at the sub-treasury without classification and signature. They were returned for removing these defects and were accepted as soon as the defects had been removed.

(*b*)—Apparently the Munsiff addressed the District Judge to enquire as to what procedure should be followed in crediting landlords' fees to the Treasury.

1386.—Yes. As stated above, rules may be published from time to time not necessarily before the Act comes into force.

1387.—Yes. Government regret the delay in making copies of the Acts and rules which were not available.

Management of the Sayidia Ward Estate

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY asked :

1388. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article "Management of the Sayidia Ward Estate" published in the *Sylhet Chronicle*, dated 12th April 1937, written in the name of Maulavi Abdul Rashid Majumdar, a ward and Maulvi Mobarak Bakht Majumdar, a superior landlord ?

1389. Will Government be pleased to state the number of suits in which the words and the superior landlords sued the estate for their allowance and rent during the year 1936-37 and the results of the suits, and the total costs incurred by the estate in contesting these cases ?

1390. Will Government be pleased to state the number and the names of the literate employees of the estate with their respective pay ?

1391. Is it a fact that the villagers of Korra, Ratanpur, Nawap, Madargora Police Station Madhabpur, had been complaining to Government for the last few years for grazing lands ?

1392. Is it a fact that this year they have made a representation to Government for the grant of a pasture land to the villagers ?

1393. If so, do Government propose to make some provision for the grazing of the cattle in those areas ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1388.—Yes.

1389.—No suit was instituted by any ward for his allowance. Nine suits were brought by superior landlords for the realisation of rents. In 7 cases, the landlords were allowed rent and only half the compensation stipulated in the deed. In one case rent, with compensation, was allowed, and in the remaining case rent was reduced and only half the compensation was allowed on the reduced rent. A sum of Rs.78-1 was paid as costs for contesting the suits.

1390.—Government are not prepared to give the names of the employees of the Estate. There are 16 in all who are literates, and draw salaries as follows :—

One on Rs. 40 per month.
One on Rs. 25 per month.
Two on Rs. 20 per month each.
Two on Rs. 18 per month each.
Five on Rs. 15 per month each.
Three on Rs. 10 per month each.
One on Rs. 4 per month.
One on Re. 1 per month.

1391.—There is no record to show that the villagers mentioned had been complaining about the pasture lands in previous years.

1392.—An application from the villagers was received by the Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, on 6th August 1937.

1393.—It is under enquiry.

Collection of drift wood from the Beki river

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1394. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state—

(*i*) Whether the drift wood flowing through the river Beki in the Barpeta subdivision has, in recent years, been practically the only source of fuel supply to the people of the south-western part of the subdivision owing to the rapid development and reclamation of lands by the rapidly growing population ?

(*ii*) Whether till last year the people could collect drift wood in the said river beyond a certain limit from the Reserve boundary free of charges ?

(*iii*) Whether in the current year the drift wood Mahal of Beki, has been leased out, thus stopping free collection ?

(*iv*) Whether there have been protests from the people of the affected parts against the aforesaid action of Government ?

(*b*) Do the Hon'ble Minister propose to consider the matter and take steps to cancel the lease and restore former conditions ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1394. (*a*)—

(*i*)—No. Grazing reserves and unclassed State forests exist all over the subdivision and form sources of fuel supply.

(*ii*)—Yes. Under the existing rules the collection of drift wood from the Beki river is allowed free to settlement-holders in the southern portion of the subdivision, who may collect it for their domestic, agricultural and other private purposes but not for purposes of sale or trade.

(*iii*)—A drift wood mahal has this year been leased out over a portion of the Beki river (from the southern boundary of the Game Sanctuary in North Kamrup to the Eastern Bengal Railway bridge across the same river) in the Northern part of the subdivision.

(*iv*)—No protests have been received.

(*b*)—In view of the answers given to the foregoing questions Government do not propose to cancel the lease.

Censor of letters, packets and telegrams addressed to any persons in Assam

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1395. Is it a fact that letters and telegrams and posted packets addressed to any persons are being censored in Gauhati and other Post and Telegraph offices in Assam ?

1396. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the names of persons whose letters and posted packets are being censored by the police authorities at Gauhati and other Post Offices in Assam ?

1397. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state why their letters and posted packets are being censored ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1395.—Letters, telegrams and posted packets are intercepted in Assam but Government are not prepared to disclose the names of the Post and Telegraph offices.

1396.—No. This would obviously defeat the object desired.

1397.—In the interest of the public safety and tranquillity.

Reassessment of Local Rates in the Permanently-settled areas of Sylhet

MR. BAIDYANATH MUKHARJI asked :

1398. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) Whether in the recent reassessment of local rates in the Permanently-settled areas, the Special Officer deputed for the work in Sylhet has been instructed not to go into the question of the accuracy of the areas comprised by different estates and as recorded in the Local Rate Register of 1880.

(2) Whether the said officer has been instructed to increase the pre-existing assessment by 50 per cent. or 100 per cent. according to the classification of the Parganas without testing the accuracy of the areas with the Thak Papers.

(3) Whether the Special Officer has before him cases of inaccurate areas recorded in respect of several estates and whether Government are prepared to instruct the Special Officer to be guided by the Thak areas.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1398.(1)—Yes.

(2)—As he has not to recalculate the annual values of small estates the answer is in the affirmative.

(3)—Certain anomalies have been detected. Government are not prepared to instruct the Special Officer to be guided by the Thak areas, especially as these also have on many occasions been proved inaccurate.

Number of Pattas in Jaintia Parganas and realisation of arrears of land revenue

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

1399. Will Government please state—

(*a*) The total number of "Pattas" in the Jaintia Parganas in the district of Sylhet ?

(*b*) The total number of Distress Warrants issued for the realisation of the arrears of land revenue in the said parganas during the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 separately ?

(*c*) When has the present Distress Warrant System been first introduced in the same Parganas ?

(*d*) The reason why Jaintia was exempted from this system of Distress Warrant for long long years before the introduction of it ?

(*e*) Whether they will consider the desirability of abolishing the Distress Warrant System so far as Jaintia Parganas are concerned ?

(*f*) The total amount of Government land revenue derived annually from the Jaintia Parganas ?

(*g*) The total amount of Government land revenue derived annually from the North-Sylhet Subdivision including Jaintia Parganas ?

(*h*) The total amount realised as fines for non-payment of land revenue from the Jaintia Parganas during the years 1931, 1932 and 1933 separately ?

(*i*) The total amount realised as fines and as process penalties of the Distress Warrants issued during the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 separately ?

(*j*) Whether Government are aware of the fact that there is the complaint that Distress Warrant System adds much to the distress of the people of Jaintia every year ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1399. (*a*)—Sixty-two thousand five hundred and eighty-eight.

(*b*)—Six thousand one hundred and forty in 1935.
Five thousand three hundred and one in 1936.
Two hundred and forty-two in 1937.

(*c*)—In 1934-35.

(*d*)—The exemption system was introduced in 1889. As the papers are reported to have been destroyed, it is not possible to state the reason now.

(*e*)—In June 1935 Government asked Commissioner for a report after adequate experience of the distress warrant system has been obtained. The report has not yet been received.

(*f*)—Realised Rs.2,53,227 in 1936-37.

Demand Rs.2,55,907 in 1936-37.

(*g*)—Realised Rs.3,67,163 in 1936-37.

Demand Rs.3,73,843 in 1936-37.

(*h*)—The information is not available as the Registers have been destroyed.

(*i*)—Rs.10,502 in 1935.

Rs.9,012 in 1936.

Rs.399 in 1937.

(*j*)—The Deputy Commissioner has received no complaint against the distress warrant system. As this system saves the defaulting Pattadars from the extra cost of process-fee required for issuing sale notices to all the defaulting Pattadars, it mitigates the distress rather than adding to it.

Furthermore, as bidders are rarely forthcoming now-a-days when lands are put up to sale, revenue would be very difficult to realise if no distress warrants were issued.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 30th August 1937)

Sanction of Building grants and recurring expenditures to certain dispensaries

MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

1400. Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to advance Building grant and sanction recurring expenditures for the dispensaries at—

(*a*) Tulshibari,
(*b*) Chunari and
(*c*) Balarbhita or Raumari.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1400.—No.

Secretary of the Gahpur Dispensary Committee

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1401. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) If it is a fact that in May 1937, Secretary to the Dispensary Committee, Gahpur (in the Tezpur Subdivision), resigned his post ?

(*b*) If so, why the Secretary resigned ?
(*c*) Whether the Local Board, Tezpur, took any action in the matter ?

(*d*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1401.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—According to the Secretary the reason was that he was not satisfied with the behaviour of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

(*c*)—The Chairman accepted the resignation.
(*d*)—Does not arise.

Government policy *re* settlement of Excise shops

SRIJUT RAM NATH DAS asked :

1402. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise be pleased to state whether it is the policy of Government to settle Excise shops with the natives of the Province ?

1403. Will Government be pleased to state the number of the Excise lessees from depressed classes in each subdivision of the Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1402.—The policy of the late Government is laid down in instructions 6 and 9 of the instructions regulating the settlement of opium and Excise shops which run as follows :—

" 6. In making a selection preference should be given, other things being equal, to natives of, or persons domiciled in the Province and next to long established residents of the Province who have been regularly engaged in the Excise business. The officer conducting the settlement, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, may however take into consideration other factors, such as the possession by an existing licensee of a good record, the suitability of a tenderer on other grounds for a particular shop, or the need of breaking up a combination, provided the tenderer chosen is a person who is already well established in the Excise business and has a really good record. It follows that the special factors should so far as possible be placed on record.

9. It is particularly desirable in the case of opium shops that preference should be given to natives of, or persons domiciled in the district, valley or Province, in that order, who can be relied on for honest and successful management in accordance with the declared policy of Government. The preference for natives, etc., of a particular locality will not however, apply to existing lessees of opium shops who have good records."

The present Government will consider whether these rules require further revision.

1403.—The following are the figures :—

Nowgong	1 (opium shop)
Mangaldai	1 (country spirit shop).
Dibrugarh	10 (opium 1, lessee-manager shops 3, combined opium and *ganja* 2, combined country spirit, *ganja* and opium 1 and country spirit 3).
North Lakhimpur	3 (opium shops).
Sibsagar	1 (opium shop).
Jorhat	4 (3 opium and 1 *ganja* shops).
Gauhati	2 (1 *ganja* and one combined opium and *ganja* shops).
Total	22

Grant of permits to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

1404. Will Government be pleased to give the names of persons who have been given permits to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road ?

(*a*) Is it a fact that they have been given permits to run lorries for 1937 and 1938 ?

(*b*) Will Government state the reasons why permits have been given for two years ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a Marwari gentleman runs a lorry for which permit has been given to Rai Sahib Sonadhar Das who is a pensioner and is not a trader ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that a young Khasi girlhas been given permit to run a lorry on the Gauhati-Shillong Road ? Is Government aware that she is not a trader ?

(*e*) Will Government state the nature of her trade ? Is it a fact that Hariram Goenka runs the lorry for which permit has been given to her ?

(*f*) Did Government make any enquiry before the permit was given to her whether she was a desirable and deserving person ?

(*g*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led them to give the permit to her ?

(*h*) Is it a fact that Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri and Rev. Nichols-Roy two Hon'ble Ministers were candidates for permit to run lorries on the Gauhati-Shillong Road and that they did not get permits to run lorries ?

(*i*) Will Government be pleased to give reasons which induced them to give permits to Shillong Hydro-Electric, Limited ?

1405. Will Government be pleased to state how many permits have been given for lorries and passengers Buses to be run on the Sylhet-Shillong Road and the names of persons or Companies or Associations who have received permits to run such Lorries or Buses together with the numbers against each and the date when permits were given ?

1406. Will Government be pleased to give the date on which permission was given to United Fruit Company, Limited and Sylhet-Shillong Motor Union, Limited ?

1407.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what permit fee was offered by each tenderer at the time of tender ?

(*b*) What permit fee was offered by Motor Union and United Fruit Company when tenders were invited ;

(*c*) and for what fee they have been given permits to run Lorries and Buses on the Sylhet-Shillong Road ?

1408. Is it a fact that Hon'ble Rev. Nichols-Roy is interested in the United Fruit Company Limited ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1404.(*a*) to (*g*) and (*i*) 1405 and 1406— The hon, member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., at this session of the Legislative Assembly.

1404.(*h*)—The Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri was not a candidate for a permit for the current year. He was a candidate for previous two years. The Hon'ble Mr. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy was a candidate for a permit for the current year as well as for previous years.

1407.(*a*)—It is regretted that the papers in this matter have been misplaced and the information wanted is not at present available.

(*b*)—*Motor Union.*—Rs.1,500 per annum for each of two vehicles to carry 12 passengers and 27 maunds of luggage and Rs.1,800 per annum for each of two vehicles to carry 20 passengers and 14 maunds of light goods.

United Fruit Company.—Rs.2,500 per annum for each of two vehicles to carry 12 passengers and 27 maunds of light goods. Rs.3,000 per annum each for two goods vehicles.

(*c*)—Rs.4,000 for each goods vehicle and Rs.3,000 for each passenger *cum* light goods vehicle.

1408.—Yes. As a share-holder.

Death of Mr. Crace, Superintendent of Police

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

1409. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Law and Order be pleased to state the date, month, and year on which Mr. Crace, Superintendent of Police, died ?

1410. Will Government be pleased to state on what principle Compassionate pensions are allowed ?

1411. Is it in the contemplation of Government to grant compassionate allowance to Mrs. Crace ? If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government please state why they propose to do so ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1409.—The 11th April, 1937.

1410.—The hon. member may refer to Article 353 of the Civil Service Regulations as amended by correction slip No. 101. A copy is placed on the Library table.

1411.—No.

Properties, cash, pensions, etc., confiscated by Government during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-32

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1412. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) What properties, cash, pensions, etc., were confiscated by Government during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-32 and thereafter ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that the confiscation of the penstion of Dr. H. K. Das, retired Civil Surgeon, still continues ?

(*c*) If Government will be pleased to order return of all properties under orders of confiscation but not yet confiscated, and refund of all cash and pensions confiscated but not yet refunded ?

(*d*) If Government be further pleased to rescind the confiscation order of Dr. H. K. Das's pension ?

(*e*) If the answers to (*c*) and (*d*) are in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reason why they are not going to take action accordingly ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1412. (*a*)—No cash was forfeited to Government during the last Civil Disobedience Movement or thereafter ; but the following articles were forfeited and disposed of:—

(*i*) One Cyclostyle machine together with some unauthorised news sheets seized from the house of a tenant of Rangirpool Vidyasram, Kulaura, in the Sylhet district. No one claimed the machine.

(*ii*) Some torn national flags, torn caps, Congress sign-boards, bulletins and placards for which there were no claimants.

For the withholding of pensions, the hon. member is referred to the replies to (Starred) question No.163(*a*) asked by Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed at this session of the Assembly.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*)—The properties forfeited to Government were disposed of and cannot be restored. There is no property under orders of confiscation at present.

As regards pensions the hon. member is referred to the replies to the (Starred) questions by Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed mentioned above, and also question No.877 asked by Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali at the present session.

Amount of revenue derived from the excluded and partially excluded areas of Assam

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS asked :

1413. Will Government please state—

(*a*) the total amount of revenue derived from the excluded and partially excluded areas of Assam, and

(*b*) the total amount of expenditure incurred in the administration of these areas ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1413.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to unstarred question No.166 asked by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri at the current session of the Assembly. The details of the rough estimate of the deficit on the excluded areas which was made in connection with Sir Otto Niemeyer's financial enquiry are given below—

	Revenue	Expenditure	Deficit or surplus
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
Lushai Hills	1,23	3,73	—2,50
Naga Hills	1,94	5,44	—3,50
North Cachar Hills ...	1,00	1,00	...
Lakhimpur Frontier Tract ...	6	6	...
Sadiya and Balipara Frontier Tracts.	2,50	4,50	—2,00
Total ...	6,73	14,73	—8,00

The estimated expenditure on excluded areas for 1937-38 is Trs.13,57.

Preparation of the General and Muhammadan Constituencies Electoral Rolls

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1414. (*a*) Will Government please state if the electoral rolls prepared for General and Muhammadan Constituencies throughout the province, for the last Assembly Election, were complete ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that many voters qualified according to paragraph 11(2), sixth Schedule, Part IX of the Government of India Act, 1935, have been excluded from the electoral rolls, if so, why ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to compare as a test, the assessment list of choukidari Circle No. 5 of Police Station Dharmapasa in the Sunamganj Subdivision, with the electoral rolls of the same area and communicate the result to this House, if there are omissions in the roll ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to undertake to make the electoral rolls of the province complete enfranchising those who are really qualified according to rules and who have been disenfranchised for no fault of their own ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1414. (*a*)—So far as Government are aware the electoral rolls prepared for the last General election were as complete as it was possible to make them in the absence of developed party organisations who (as in other countries) see to it that no qualified supporter of theirs is omitted.

(*b*)—Probably : because the officer compiling the roll cannot be expected to know the internal affairs of Hindu joint families.

(*c*)—No.

(*d*)—No person has been " disfranchised for no fault of his own ". The preliminary electoral rolls were widely published and any person whose name was not in the roll and who considered that he should have been included could have made a claim to the Revising Authority within 21 days of the publication of the roll. As regards revising the roll the hon. member is referred to rule 33 of Part I of the Assam Legislative Assembly Electoral (Governor's) Rules, 1936.

Erosion of the Sunamganj Town by the Surma river

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1415. (*a*) What steps do Government propose to take to protect the town of Sunamganj from the erosion of the Surma river ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that steps taken so far failed to do anything to stop the erosion ?

(*c*) For how long the effort has been made ; do Government propose to consider whether other methods should be adopted ?

(*d*) Is is a fact that the river is encroaching upon the town of Sunamganj ?

(*e*) Will Government please place on the table reports of Engineers about this encroachment, if there are any ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1415. (*a*)—Government do not propose to take any steps further than that of protecting Government buildings or property where this can be done at a fractional cost of the value of the property involved.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*) (*i*)—Minor protection work adjoint to Government property have been in existence for many years.

(*ii*)—Not at present or until conditions alter.

(*d*)—Slight erosion has taken place but not more than should be anticipated when a town is built on the edge of a convex bend of a river.

(*e*)—No. Reports to superior officers by Government servants are not generally placed on the table.

Salary drawn by each individual Ministers

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1416. Will Government be pleased to state (*i*) the actual salary drawn by each individual Ministers in April 1937, (*ii*) the salary drawn in subsequent months ?

1417. Will Government be pleased to state (1) if it is a fact that some of the Hon'ble Ministers drew travelling allowances before they were actually appointed as Ministers. (2) If so, what is the amount drawn and by whom.

(3) What is the purpose of such tour and what are the places visited during the period before their actual appointment as Ministers.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1416. (*i*) and (*ii*)—The actual salary drawn by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and each of the other Ministers for April—July 1937 was Rs.2,800 and Rs.1,800 per mensem respectively.

1417. The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 248 asked by Babu Sibendra Chandra Biswas at the present session.

Revenues derived from Stamps and Court-fees

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1418. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state the following: —

(1) Revenues derived from Stamps and Court-fees separately for the six months from January to June, year by year, for the last four years and the current year ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1418. (1)—The figures are given below. These figures exclude value of stamps paid in Bengal on documents relating to the properties in Assam which is adjusted annual y and the amount is Rs.45,000.

Revenues derived from—

	Stamps	Court-fees
	Rs.	Rs.
1933	1,78,019	7,32,223
1934	1,93,069	7,44,513
1935	2,03,471	7,25,097
1936	2,13,346	8,16,355
1937	2,68,925	7,33,273

Revenue derived from enhanced rate of Court-fees

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1419. Will Government be pleased to state what is the amount of Revenue derived from enhanced rate of Court-fees in the last ½ year ending on 30th June 1937 and what is the amount derived for the same period in 3 previous years ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1419.—The hon. member is referred to answer given to the unstarred question No. 1418 at the present session.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway

SRIJUT LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH asked :

1420. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state at how many points the Dibru-Sadiya Railway line crosses (*i*) the Sadiya Trunk Road and (*ii*) Mukum-Digboi Road; and (*iii*) whether level crossings are provided in each of points: If not, why not ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Railways are required to put up level crossing wherever it crosses the public high way ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of accidents resulting in :—

(*i*) killing of cattle,

(*ii*) killing of human being in each of the 3 last preceding years ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Dibru-Sadiya Railway line from Dibrugarh to Saikhowaghat runs parallel within a distance of 6 feet of Sadiya Trunk Road which bears heavy vehicular and foot traffic ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1420. (*a*) (*i*)—Six.
(*ii*)—Three.
(*iii*)—Yes.
(*b*)—Yes.

		1934	1935	1936
(*i*)	...	14	21	11
(*ii*)	...	13	9	6

(*d*)—A certain portion of this section of the road and railway are within six feet of each other. The road carries fairly heavy traffic.

Salary drawn by each individual Ministers

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked :

1421. What was the salary drawn by each of the Hon'ble Ministers per month in April, May and June last ?

1422. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the total amount received from Government for travelling and other expenses by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Revenue and Judicial for formation of the Ministry in Assam ?

1423. Will the Minister in charge be pleased to state for the information of the House the details of the journey undertaken by them their halting in different places in connection with this adventure ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1421.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1416 (*i*) (*ii*) asked by Babu Kamini Kumar Sen at the present session.

1422 and 1423.—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 248 asked by Babu Sibendra Chandra Biswas at the present session.

Number of buses plying on the Sylhet-Shillong Road

MAULAVI MD ABDUS SALAM asked :

1424. Will the Hon'ble Minist r in charge please state—
(*i*) the number of Buses that are plying on the Sylhet-Shillong Road ?
(*ii*) the number of Buses that are insured against 3rd party risk together with the name of the insurance Companies ?
(*iii*) (*a*) the number of accidents in the last three years ?
(*b*) the number of lives lost ?
(*c*) the amount of loss involved in these accidents ?
(*iv*) (*a*) Do Government propose to take steps for compulsory Motor Car Insurance ?
(*b*) If so, when ?
(*c*) If not, why ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1424. (*i*)—Thirty-three permits have been issued for plying motor vehicles on the road of which 19 are for passenger vehicles and 14 are for goods lorries.

(*ii*)—Government have no information.

		1934	1935	1936
(*iii*) (*a*)—		3	8	Nil
(*b*)—		1	2	Nil

(*c*)—Government have no information.

(*iv*) (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Amount of hill allowances paid to Government officers stationed in Shillong

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1425. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The annual amount of hill allowances paid to Government officers stationed in Shillong for the last 5 years?

(*b*) Is it a fact that hill allowance is paid on the principle of compensating the officers for the supposed higher cost of living in the hill ?

(*c*) Is Government aware that Shillong has become cheaper living than many a plain stations in the Province ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1425.(*a*) and (*b*)—There is now no allowance called hill allowance, but compensatory allowance for high cost of living is paid to certain classes of officers of the Police, Medical, Education and Jails Departments stationed in Shillong. The amount paid during the last five years is given below. In the case of Education Department the annual cost is decreasing on the retirement or transfer of existing teachers —

—	Police Department (Sergeant and Constables)	Education Department (Non-Khasi teachers who were employed in the Shillong Government High English School before December 1923)	Medical Department Compounders)	Jails Department (Assistant Jailor and Warders)
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.
1932-33 ...	2,071	1,802 8 0	240 0 0	684
1933-34 ...	1,947	1,742 4 0	244 2 0	684
1934-35 ...	1,858	1,722 0 0	277 2 0	684
1935-36 ...	1,837	1,767 0 0	240 8 0	684
1936-37 ...	1,649	1,365 15 0	230 15 0	684

(*c*)—No.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 31st August 1937)

Number of gun licenses issued in the province

SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI asked :

1426. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of gun licenses issued in the province ?

(*b*) The number of guns issued to cultivators for the purposes of protecting crops ?

(*c*) The number of guns issued for life protection ?

(*d*) The realization of taxes or fees from each gun per annum.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1426. (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question 971 asked by Maulavi Munawwar Ali at the present session.

(*d*)—The hon. member may refer to pages 110 and 119 of the Indian Arms Act Manual, Assam, a copy of which is placed on the Library table.

Newspaper article *re* outrage of modesty of a Muhammadan girl at Kulaura Railway Station

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

1427. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports published in *Abhijan* and also in *Janamat* of the 6th July 1937 about an incident of outrage of modesty of a Muhammadan girl at Kulaura Railway Station ?

(*b*) If so what action, if any, has been taken by Government to bring the offenders to justice ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1427. (*a*)—Yes, since the question was received.

(*b*)—Enquiry was made by the proper authorities and the allegation was found to be entirely false. No action on the part of Government is therefore necessary.

Amount of Kit-money drawn by officers of Imperial Police Service

SRIJUT BELIRAM DAS asked:

1428. Will Government be pleased to state what amount of Kit-money has been drawn by Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Superintendents of Police, Assistant Superintendents of Police and Deputy Superintendents of Police during the last 10 years, as also what amount was drawn by these officers as their first Kit allowance ?

1429. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the amount drawn by them are utilized for the purpose for which they are drawn ?

1430. Do Government keep any account to show that the Kit is actually purchased with the money drawn ?

1431. If the answer is in the affirmative do Government inspect and check the accounts ?

1432. Have Government taken any steps to see that these Kits are put on while these officers are on tour, and attend office ?

1433. Is it a fact that Inspectors of Police and Sub-Inspectors of Police are not given any Kit free ?

1434. Do Government propose to give up the practice of sanctioning Kit allowance altogether ?

1435. If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1428. The figures cannot be made available without an excessive amount of labour and time.

1429.—Yes.

1430 and 1431.—No account is kept but Provincial Government require a certificate from the Deputy Superintendents of Police to the effect that the money drawn has actually been spent.

1432.—Yes. This is prescribed in the Assam Police Manual.

1433.—Yes.

1434.—No.

1435.—Because it is considered to be suitable and just.

Percentage of communities in the Provincial and Subordinate services

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

1436. Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of the Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled Castes and backward communities in the Provincial and Subordinate services in the Province, showing figures separately for both the valleys ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1436.—For the purposes of the statistics maintained by this Government in respect of the services to which appointments are made by them, the services are divided into three categories, *viz.*, (*i*) gazetted, (*ii*) non-gazetted non-ministerial and (*iii*) non-gazetted) ministerial.

For figures relating to the first category, the hon. member may refer to the Civil List.

For the second category, two statements, the first relating to Muslims and the second to Hindus and Scheduled Castes (no such class as "backward communities" is recognised by Government as a unit for communal representation in the services), are placed on the library table. These statements show figures for the province as a whole, since it would involve a disproportionate amount of labour and time to compile separate figures for the two valleys.

For the third category, only figures relating to the Muslims are available and are furnished in a statement placed on the library table. The figures relating to the rest are not at present available and cannot readily be compiled for the reason stated above.

Percentage of appointments to which hill tribes are entitled

MAULAVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED asked :

1437. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether in fixing the percentage of appointments to which the hill tribes are entitled, the population of non-British areas is included ?

(*b*) If the reply is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for such inclusion when they are not British subjects and contributing nothing to the provincial revenue ?

1438. Will Government be pleased to state the number of appointments held at present by the hill tribes in different provincial offices in Shillong and how many of them are British subjects and how many of them are non-British ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1437. (*a*)—The population of only one non-British area, namely the Khasi States, is included.

(*b*)—As the tribal people of the Khasi States and those belonging to British territory are equally eligible for Government service, it was considered necessary to include the population of the Khasi States in order to arrive at a correct percentage.

1438.—A statement is laid on the library table.

Newspaper article *re* "Outraged on woman at Kulaura"

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1439. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether a Muslim woman was outraged on the 5th June 1937 in the 3rd class female waiting room at Kulaura ?

(*b*) (*i*) Whether the attention of the Hon'ble Minister has been drawn to the issue of the "Nakib" published from Kulaura on the 15th June 1937 with heading "Outraged on woman at Kulaura" ?

(*ii*) If so, do Government propose to take any steps in the matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1439. (*a*)—No. In this connection the hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No.1427 asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at the present session.

(*b*) (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—No.

Number of touring days of the Subdivisional Officers

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1440. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the number of days in a month the Subdivisional Officers can remain away from their station on tour ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to restrict their touring days to the maximum of 15 days a month ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied ;

1440. (*a*)—No monthly limit is prescribed. Subdivisional Officers are required by rule 205 of the Assam Executive Manual to be on tour for 120 days in the year (90 days in Sylhet and Goalpara) and this period is to be distributed over the whole year.

(*b*)—No.

Expenditure incurred in connection with the meetings of the Selection Board

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1441. Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing year by year the expenditure incurred to meet the expenses of Selection Board for the last five years before the creation of the Assam Public Service Commission ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1441.—Selection Boards used to meet frequently on different occasions in connection with recruitment to various services. The expenditure on account of travelling allowance of members, which was the only cost incurred was debited against the Secretariat and the departments concerned. As account of these particular travelling allowances was not kept separately, Government regret they are not in a position to give the information required.

Remedial measures for the prevention of floods

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1442. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) whether it is a fact that untimely floods are causing damages to the crops in many places in the District of Sylhet continually for the last fifteen years ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to find out the causes of such floods and take immediate steps for their remedy ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1442. (*a*)—Parts of the district of Sylhet have been flooded and liable to flood for considerably more than fifteen years.

(*b*)—The principal cause is the excessive rainfall in the hills and the low lying nature of the district. If the hon. member can suggest any remedies Government will be pleased to have them examined by experts.

Construction of a Medical School at Sylhet

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1443. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) When the construction of the buildings for medical school of Sylhet was begun and when the work stopped ?
(*b*) The number of buildings constructed for the purpose ?
(*c*) When those buildings were ready for use, and for how many years they have been lying unused ?
(*d*) What was the total cost of these buildings ?
(*e*) What is the area of the compound ?
(*f*) How much has been the cost of its acquisition ?
(*g*) What has been the total expenditure incurred up to date ?
(*h*) What was the sanctioned estimate for the purpose ?
(*i*) What use the buildings are now put to ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1443. (*a*)—Construction began in January 1928 and completed in June 1931.

(*b*)—49.

(*c*)—The buildings have been ready for use since their construction. Some of the buildings have been used since July 1931 and some are still unused.

(*d*)—Rs.8,39,347.
(*e*)—29·76 acres.
(*f*)—Rs.12,523.
(*g*)—See reply to (*d*) above.
(*h*)—Rs.9,06,651.
(*i*)—The buildings are now occupied by the Civil Hospital and certain other Government offices.

Introduction of the line system in Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1444. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) When the line system between the Assamese people and Bengali immigrants was introduced in the district of Nowgong ?

(*b*) Why was such line system introduced ?

(*c*) What was the number of villages in which the line system existed before the last re-settlement operations in this district ?

(*d*) What is the number of villages in which this line system exists now ?

1445. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the years in which the following mauzas of the district of Nowgong were opened for settlement to the Bengal immigrants ?

(1) Bokani, (2) Mayang, (3) Laharighat, (4) Dhing, (5) Bardowa, (6) Juria, (7) Laokhowa, (8) Khatowal, (9) Mikirbheta, (10) Silpukhuri ?

(*b*) What was the number of Assamese villages that existed in these mauzas before they were opened to Bengali immigrants, Mauza by Mauza, and what is the number of such villages now ?

1446. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Assamese lines that were converted into immigrant lines or into mixed lines between the years 1920 and 1936 ?

1447. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The area in bighas of agricultural waste lands reserved for the natural expansion of the present population in the district of Nowgong since 1920, and the places where such lands are reserved ?

(*b*) Whether any such reserves were subsequently thrown open for settlement ?

if so, (1) when and in what places ?

(2) What was the area in bighas thrown open to the immigrants ?

(3) What was the area in bighas thrown open to the Assamese people ?

(*c*) Whether such reserved lands were again closed down for further settlement ? If so, when and why ?

1448. Is it a fact that such agricultural waste lands were reserved in accordance with any policy followed by Government protecting the rights of the children of the soil ? If so, is it within the competence of a Deputy Commissioner to throw open such reserved lands for settlement to immigrants ?

1449. Will Government be pleased to state the number of immigrants and Assamese separately, Mauza by Mauza, holding land (1) over 100 bighas, (2) over 200 bighas, (3) over 300 bighas and (4) over 400 bighas, in the district of Nowgong ?

1450. Is it a fact that sub-letting and Adhi-system are not allowed to the Assamese whereas they are allowed to the immigrants ? If so, why ?

1451. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The amount of premium realised on lands settled to the immigrants since the introduction of the system, Mauza by Mauza up to 1936 ?

(*b*) How and in what places the amount so realised has been spent ?

(*c*) Whether the whole amount has been spent ? If not, what is the surplus that has been left over, and how do Government propose to utilise that amount ?

1452. (*a*) Is it a fact that a declaration adumbrating that the amount received as premium would be utilised for development of the immigrant areas was made ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to place a copy of the declaration on the table of the House ?

1453. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government verified the accounts of the premium paid on lands settled to the immigrants, and the areas indicated in the *pattas* issued to them, in each case ?

(*a*) If so, who verified them ?

(*b*) If not, how Government was satisfied that more lands than the immigrants were entitled to, for the premium paid, were not settled ?

1454. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Mauzas in Assam that were given to retired Government servants from 1930 up to date ?

1455. Is it a fact that the Namti Mauza in the district of Nowgong has been given to a retired Government servant although a number of qualified young men both Hindus and Musalmans had also applied for the same ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1444 and 1453.—It has not been possible in the time available to collect the information moreover some of them cannot be answered without a disproportionate amount of labour. The whole matter will be examined by the Committee appointed to report on the line system.

1454.—Government have no information.

1455.—Government are prepared to accept the hon. member's statement.

Nowgong Co-operative Town Bank

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1456. Is it a fact that the Nowgong Co-operative Town Bank, Limited gave a notice to the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, and to the Nowgong Local Board, claiming more than Rs.600 ?

(*a*) What is the claim for ?

(*b*) Has the case been amicably settled ?

(*c*) If not, has the Bank filed any case ?

(*d*) Who will pay the cost of the case ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied.

1456.—Government have no information.

Establishment of Maternity Home at Nowgong Town

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1457. Will Government be pleased to state—(*a*) when the Maternity Home at Nowgong Town was established ?

(*b*) What is the total cost of buildings and the lands acquired for the purpose ?

(*c*) What is the cost of monthly establishment ?

(*d*) How many patients were treated since its establishment ?

(*e*) How many ladies' meetings were held for giving instructions to them on Maternity Welfare ?

1458. Will Government be pleased to state—(*a*) If the wishes of the donor who subscribed the majority of the funds for the Home has been fulfilled ?

(*b*) Who supervise the works of this Home and the works of the employee ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1457.(*a*)—This institution is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and not a Maternity Home. It was established by the Assam Branch, Indian Red Cross Society in December 1935.

	Rs.
(*b*)—Buildings	4,555
Land	3,490

(*c*)—Rupees 64.

(*d*)—The only information Government have on the matter is that it appears from the notes of the Lady Health Visitor that 215 persons received advice or directions between 8th August 1936 and 8th June 1937.

(*e*)—Six lectures were delivered in 1936 and instructions were given to those who visited the Clinic. It appears that the system of lectures has since been discontinued.

1458.(*a*)—The only information Government have on this matter is that the principal donor is a member of the Executive Committee and the work of the institution is conducted according to the decision of this Committee.

(*b*)—A Committee of 22 members. The President of the Committee is the Deputy Commissioner.

Number of Co-operative Societies in Assam

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1459. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Co-operative Societies in Assam, and the number of Inspectors to supervise those societies ?

1460. (*i*) Is it a fact that the number of Inspectors is inadequate to cope with the inspection of the societies ?

(*ii*) Is it a fact that besides the inspection work the Inspectors have to do liquidation, arbitration, audit and other works ?

1461. (*a*) Is it a fact that Government realise audit fees from the societies ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount realised on this account during the years 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, district by district ?

1462. (*a*) Is it a fact that the rate of fees has recently been increased ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state how the money is being spent at present ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that these fees have been realised for the audit of the village societies ?

1463. Will Government be pleased to state if audit includes verification of loans and deposits ?

1464. Will Government be pleased to state how many loans and deposits were verified during the years 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37 ?

1465. Is it a fact that the main portion of audit of village societies is now being done by Inspectors' clerks and the supervisors of the central banks and the Inspectors only check them ?

1466. Is it a fact that the audit fees are now used for paying the pay of the Inspectors ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1459.—One thousand four hundred and forty-eight and 15 respectively.

1460. (*i*)—Yes.
(*ii*)—Yes.

1461. (*a*)—Yes.
(*b*)—The statement below gives the information.

District	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Lakhimpur	255 6 0	214 2 0	207 15 0	211 14 0	301 3 0
Sibsagar	2,324 4 0	2,281 5 0	2,256 3 0	2,123 3 0	2,176 2 0
Nowgong	1,611 6 0	1,595 10 0	1,577 12 0	1,550 10 0	1,482 12 0
Darrang	1,076 7 0	1,070 10 0	1,041 15 0	1,038 3 0	1,026 3 0
Kamrup	1,235 7 0	1,258 14 0	1,235 9 0	1,297 10 0	1,316 0 0
Goalpara	683 13 0	698 4 0	711 12 0	676 11 0	634 1 0
Sylhet	4,564 3 0	4,602 3 0	4,632 15 0	4,512 14 0	4,455 0 0
Cachar	1,364 10 0	1,363 0 0	1,360 12 0	1,344 0 0	1,351 10 0
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1,012 6 0	969 6 0	1,026 6 0	1,157 14 0	1,238 8 0
Manipur	100 0 0	100 0 0	100 0 0	100 0 0	100 0 0

1462. (*a*)—No.
(*b*)—The fee is credited to provincial revenues.
(*c*)—The audit fee is levied for audit of all co-operative societies.

1463.—Yes.

1464.—The collection of this information will involve much labour and time and will not be commensurate with the result.

1465.—No. The clerks and supervisors of central banks help them in the annual audit, the Inspectors remaining responsible for audit of all such rural societies in their circle.

1466.—No.

Establishment of High School in the Garo Hills

MR. BENJAMIN CH. MOMIN asked:

1467. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are intending to establish a High English School in the Garo Hills District ?

(*b*) If so, when is it going to be started ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1467. (*a*) and (*b*)—The matter will be considered.

Amount of current and fixed deposits in the Central Co-operative Banks in the Province

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI asked :

1468. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the total amount of current and fixed deposits in the Central Co-operative Banks in the province ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that a number of these banks are not working well for some years.

(*c*) Whether there is an Inspector of Co-operative Societies in each of those subdivisions where there is a Central Bank.

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that a large amount of money was misappropriated in the Jorhat Central Co-operative Bank.

(*e*) What action, if any, the Government propose to take against these officers.

1469. Do Government propose to appoint a competent officer to help the Jorhat Co-operative Central Bank in bringing it up to a satisfactory position.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1468. (*a*)—Rupees 17,80,379.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Yes, except in North Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Mangaldai.

(*d*)—Yes.

(*e*)—The officer who misappropriated the money was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment and fine by the Sessions Court.

1469.—No special officer can be deputed for this purpose but there is a Co-operative Inspector at Jorhat whose advice and services are always available to the bank.

Damage to Paddy crops by rain water in Jaintia Parganas

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked:

1470. Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of Agriculture please state the extent of damage by rain water to paddy crops in the following areas—

(*a*) In Jaintia parganas where the drainage is obstructed by the Sylhet-Shillong Road between Dawki and Haripur.

(*i*) The Naljuri area,

(*ii*) Sari area,

(*iii*) Just up to Haripur area ?

(*b*) Churkhai particularly near 16th to 18th mile of the Sylhet-Karimganj Road and Renga areas lying between the rivers Surma and Kusiara and drainage of which is obstructed by the Fenchuganj-Sylhet Rail Road ?

(*c*) the area under the flow of water from Kalnichai Dhala ?

(*d*) further down, the area under the flow of water from Radhanagar Dhalas of the Kusiara ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1470.(*a*)(*i*)—An area of about 6 miles in length from Naljuri to Jaintiapur is often affected by sudden floods. The estimated damaged area is about 1,000 bighas.

Afflux levels which have been maintained by the Public Works Department for several years show however that the Sylhet-Shillong road is not responsible for any general obstruction of the natural drainage.

(*ii*)—The *amon* area is damaged every year owing to the silting up of the Baitakhal stream. The land spans of two bridges on the road have been extended in this area.

(*iii*)—The estimated damage in this area is about 2,000 bighas.

(*b*)—Government in the Public Works Department have recently written to the Railway authorities for information regarding afflux readings along the railway embankment. The area in question sustains damage every year but Government have no information as regards the extent of the damage.

(*c*) and (*d*)—These areas are damaged every year but Government have no exact information as to the extent of the damage.

Jorhat Technical School

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN asked:

1471. Is it a fact that after passing the general course, some 8/10 students from the Jorhat Technical School were sent to the Assam Oil Company for practical training, at the instance of the Director of Industries, Assam, in 1935-36 ?

1472. Is it a fact that those students were given boarding and lodging accommodations, in ordinary coolie lines and hence they left their training course ?

1473. Is it also a fact that some other students from Dhanbad School, of similar qualification and status, were given better accommodation when they were in practical training in the Assam Oil Company ?

1474. Do the Assam Oil Company give preference to the students who pass the course of training from Jorhat Technical School or from Berry-White Medical School in making appointments and do they refer to these schools when they want any technical men ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1471.—Yes.

1472.—The first batch of students was sent for apprenticeship in 1934. At the beginning some complaints were received about the accommodation provided but this was attended to by the Company and so far as Government is aware no student left on this ground *alone*. There have been no such complaints since then.

1473.—Government have no information.

1474.—Under an agreement made between Government and the Company eight passed students of Technical schools are admitted at a time as apprentices with a view to their ultimate appointment by the Company if found suitable and as vacancies occur.

Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

1475. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been confirmed in the Public Health Department with effect from January 1936 ?

(*b*) What was their respective length of service in temporary establishment ?

(*c*) Under what rule relating to Government service the same initial pay has been given to the Sub-Assistant Surgeons irrespective of their length of service ?

1476. Will Government be pleased to state whether (*a*) when the Assistant Surgeons in the Department are confirmed they get the same consideration as in the case of Sub-Assistant Surgeon or get any retrospective effects of past service ?

If so, under what claim or consideration ?

(*b*) Will Government consider the desirability of extending the same right of getting retrospective effects to Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department ?

If not why ?

1477. Is it a fact that according to the scheme by which the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department are confirmed many Sub-Assistant Surgeons who have eight or ten years of temporary service will have no chance of selection grade ?

1478. Do Government propose to revise their former scheme, so that the benefit of selection grade may be enjoyed by those Sub-Assistant Surgeons who are confirmed after eight or ten years of temporary service ?

1479. Will Government be pleased to state why the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department are not given the same amount of house rent as the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Civil Medical Department ?

1480. Do Government propose to consider this and to make uniform rate of house allowance for those officers who are of the same class or standard ?

1481. Will Government be pleased to state why no provision of promotion of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of Public Health Department to the rank of Assistant Surgeons has been made like that in the Civil Medical Department ?

1482. Do Government propose to make such provision at an early date ?

1483. Will Government be pleased to state why service bond is necessary for the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department ?

1484.(*a*) Do Government propose to abolish the system of service bond of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Public Health Department ?

(*b*) If not, is Government prepared to reduce the period from ten to five years and the amount from one thousand to five hundred rupees ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1475. (*a*)—Seventy-nine..

1475 (*b*), (*c*) and 1476.—The hon. member is referred to the replies to similar questions asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at the present session.

1477.—No person has any right to a selection grade post which depends upon merit and in any system such posts can be held by only a limited number of persons in a service.

1478.—No.

1479.—The difference in the rates appears to have originated in the fact that the Public Health Sub-Assistant Surgeons normally live in rural areas where rent is cheap whereas the Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department have normally to live in towns.

1480.—Government will consider the point raised by the hon. member.

1481.—Because the whole staff was temporary until last year.

1482.—The matter will be considered.

1483.—In the interests of Service discipline.

1484.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—The present bond is for 5 years and the amount is for Rs. 500.

Total tax collection of North Lakhimpur Town Committee

MR. KEDARMAL BRAHMIN asked :

1485. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total tax collection of North Lakhimpur Town Committee,

(*b*) The amount of the tax paid by the Marwaries, and

(*c*) How many of the Marwaries are represented in the Town Committee ?

1486.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Marwari Merchants' Association of North Lakhimpur filed an application to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, to nominate Ramprasad Mahesri, a Marwari representative in the Town Committee ?

(*b*) If so, what happened to that application ?

(*c*) What is the principle followed in nominating a man in that Town Committee ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Ramprasad Mahesri fulfilled the conditions of the principle ?

1487. If so, do Government propose to nominate the said Ramprasad Mahesri to represent the Marwaries in the North Lakhimpur Town Committee ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1485.(*a*)—The total demand for 1936-37 was Rs. 4,795.

(*b*)—Rupees 570.

(*c*)—None.

1486.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The request could not be acceded to in view of the better claims of other communities. The Marwaris formed 5 per cent. of the population and only 10 of them were voters.

(*c*)—Under rule 27 of the Small Town Election Rules the Deputy Commissioner has to pay regard to the claims of those castes, communities and interests which are not adequately represented by the elected members.

(*d*)—Government have no knowledge of this particular gentleman but in view of the reply to (*b*) above the question does not arise.

1487.—The appointment of members of a Town Committee is vested in the Deputy Commissioner by rule 27 above mentioned. The question of nomination by Government therefore does not arise.

Settlement of the Panpur Silghat Ferry-ghat at Tezpur

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked :

1488. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution passed at the last Naduar Ryot Sava held at Lehugaon on the 21st and the 22nd June last about the Panpur Silghat ferry-ghat ?

(*b*) If so, whether Government propose to take any action to remedy the public grievances ?

1489. Is it a fact —(*i*) that from the time when the Steamer Company first started a ghat at Panpur the Local Board, Tezpur, has settled the said Panpur Silghat ferry-ghat at a nominal amount with the present lessee, who is holding the said ghat for the past twenty years ?

(*ii*) That at the last sale this ferry-ghat was not settled with the highest bidder ?

(*iii*) That the highest bidder was a local man of means and that he made an appeal to the Commissioner, Assam Valley, that he got a "parwana" from the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, debarring him from any sale of hats and ghats, etc. in the future and that he got a redress ?

1490. Whether the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, has got such an instruction from the Commissioner to issue such a parwana or the Deputy Commissioner thought it fit to take such a disciplinary action against the bidder and to what fault ?

THE HON'BLE REV J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

1488. (*a*)—The answer is in the negative.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1489. (*i*)—Government understand that for the last twelve years at least the ferry is being settled with the present lessee at a reasonable price.

(*ii*)—No.

(*iii*)—No, the lessee was the highest bidder. One Bhumidhar Bordaloi filed an appeal to the Commissioner but as his allegations were found to be false the Commissioner rejected the appeal and pointed out that the Deputy Commissioner had power to refuse to allow the appellant to bid in future years and stated that in his opinion the Deputy Commissioner ought to use that power.

1490.—See the reply to 1489 (*iii*) above.

Hindu Hostel attached to the Sylhet Government High School

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked:

1491. Will Government please state—

(*a*) How many seats there are in the Hindu Hostel attached to the Sylhet Government High School and how many are now occupied ?

(*b*) How many applications for admission into the said Hostel were rejected for want of accommodation during the last three years ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that in the number of applications for admission rejected there were applications from meritorious students and that they were not admitted into the school on account of the fact that they would not get seats in the Hostel ?

1492. Is it a fact that the school committee approached Government for adequate funds in order to extend the Hostel which can accommodate only 12 students but Government refused to sanction any money ?

1493. If the answer to question No. 1492 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to remove this grievance of the students seeking admission into the Hostel ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1491.(*a*)—There are twelve seats. All are now occupied.

(*b*) —Five applications were rejected during the year 1936-37. The figures of the two previous years are not available.

(*c*)—Some boys were refused admission but it is not known whether they were *meritorious* or not.

1492.—Yes, but for want of funds the proposed extension could not be sanctioned.

1493.—Yes, when funds permit.

Strength of Class II of the Assam School Service

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked :

1494. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education please state the total strength of class II of the Assam School Service and how many Muhammadans are there in this cadre of the Assam School Service from the Surma Valley and how many of them are serving in the schools in Surma Valley ?

1495.—Do Government propose to consider the cases of the Muhammadan teachers of the Surma Valley and to appoint some of them in class II of the Assam School Service, as was done in the Assam Valley ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1494.—Twenty-three : there are at present no Muhammadans of the Surma Valley in this class.

1495.—Promotions to class II are *at present* based on the merit and seniority of officers in class III and the cases of Muhammadan officers of the Surma Valley will be considered along with others.

Welsh Mission Hospital at Jowai

MR. A. F. BENDALL asked :

1496. Is it a fact that the buildings of the Welsh Mission Hospital of Jowai are in such a state of disrepair that occupation of these buildings has now become dangerous ?

1497. Is it a fact that the Welsh Mission is anxious and willing to build a new Hospital on a more convenient site, but cannot do so without a Government grant for building purposes ?

1498. If no such grant is available what arrangements do Government propose to make for the accommodation of the large number of maternity cases and in-patients that are annually treated in the present Hospital ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1496.—Government are aware that the present buildings are inadequate for the work but not that their occupation is positively dangerous.

1497.—Yes.

1498.—This is a hypothetical question to which Government are not prepared to reply. The position is that the Mission prepared a scheme costing one lakh and expected Government to contribute half of this amount. The late Government was unable to promise such a large amount but informed the Mission authorities that they would be willing to consider a grant towards a less ambitious scheme.

Castration of undesirable bulls by the Veterinary and Live-Stock Department

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1499. Is it a fact that Veterinary and Live-Stock Departments have been jointly carrying on a campaign of reckless castration of what they consider as undesirable bulls in the villages ?

1500. Is it a fact as many as 25,000 bulls have been castrated in the last year in different villages without making provision for better bulls and thereby causing paucity of breeding bulls in many places ?

1501. Do Government propose to stop this sort of castration before making for better breeding bulls ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1499.—There has been no reckless campaign.

1500.—Over 26,000 weedy and undesirable bulls were castrated last year. The Assam Livestock Improvement Association has as its object the improvement of the breed of cattle in Assam by the registration and maintenance of superior local bulls. A copy of the "Plan of Action" of the Association is laid on the Library table.

1501.—Does not arise.

Establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

1502. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the scheme according to which lands were acquired and buildings constructed in the town of Sylhet for the establishment of a Medical School, shewing the actual expenses incurred under that scheme ?

1503. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons which led them to postpone the establishment of the Medical School at Sylhet, and

(*b*) whether they propose to take up the execution of the original scheme without delay ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1502.—The papers dealing with the scheme are so voluminous that it is impossible to lay them on the table. The actual expenditure incurred was Rs.8,39,347.

1503.(*a*)—The scheme was postponed for financial stringency and pending the construction of a new hospital at Sylhet.

(*b*)—It will be impossible to take up the matter immediately.

Government circular prohibiting Government servants from taking part in politics

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1504. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government took any steps whatsoever to ascertain if the directions contained in the Government circular prohibiting Government servants from taking part in politics were disobeyed by any of its officers ?

(*b*) If not, will Government state the reasons why ?

1505. If the answer to question No.1504 is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether any officer was found guilty of breach, and if so, the names of the officers and what actions, if any, were taken against them ?

1506. Is it a fact that Professor Maulavi Abul Lais Sa-ad-uddin Muhammad of the Murarichand College, Sylhet, took open and direct part in the last elections to the Council of State and to the Provincial Legislatures ?

1507. Is it a fact that the said Professor took parts in active politics within the knowledge of the Muhammadan members of the Council of Ministers and various members of the Legislatures ?

1508. If not, do Government propose to enquire about it from such voters of the Council of State such as Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla, Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulavi Golam Mostafa Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur Mufizur Rahman, Maulavi Ziaul Islam Chaudhury of Fulbari, Mr. Ali Ahmed, Executive Engineer and the Muhammadan members of the Legislatures belonging to the district of Sylhet including the members of the Cabinet ?

1509. Do Government know that Professor Abul Lais Sa-ad-uddin Muhammad had been to Shillong on 22nd and 23rd March 1937 and

during the last April session of the Assembly and that the said Professor had been to Calcutta from 25th March to 29th March 1937 ?

1510. Will Government please state on what grounds the Professor took leave from the College on these occasions ?

1511. Is it a fact that the said Professor absented himself from the College on these occasions with the purpose of taking part in the formation of Ministry ?

1512. Do Government know that the said Professor was present in all the meetings of the Muhammadan members of the Assembly that were held at the house of Maulavi Faiznur Ali on 22nd and 23rd March 1937 and took part in the deliberations on the face of resentment from some of the members ? If not, do Government propose to enquire from Maulavi Faiznur Ali and the members of the Legislative Assembly who were present there ?

1513. Has the attention of Government been drawn to various publications in the *Janasakti*, the *Shwadhikar* and the *Sylhet Chronicle* of various dates alleging and citing particular parts the said Professor took in active politics ?

1514. Do Government know that there are documentary evidences to prove these allegations ?

1515. If not do Government propose to hold a public enquiry about the said Professor's activities ?

1516. Is it a fact that Professor Abul Lais Sa-ad-uddin Muhammad of the Murarichand College, Sylhet, purchased the Hashanpur Tea Estate Limited, without taking previous permission of Government ?

1517. Is it a fact that this action of the said Professor was against the explicit provisions of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules ?

1518. Is it a fact that the said Professor was not given permission to retain the garden and was asked to sell it in auction through the Deputy Commssioner, Sylhet ?

1519. Is it a fact that subsequently the said Professor was allowed to sell the garden by private arrangement to Khan Bahadur Golam Mastafa Chaudhury of Bhatipara ?

1520. Do Government know that the said Professor still retains one-fourth share in the garden in the Benami of Khan Bahadur Golam Mastafa Chaudhury though apparently he sold the whole garden to him ?

1521. Do Government know that there are independent credible witnesses to prove the allegation ?

1522. If answer to question No. 1520 is in the negative, do Government propose to hold a public enquiry into this matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1504.(*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Government did not think it necessary.

1505.—Does not arise.

1506.—Government have no information.

1507.—Government have no information.

1508.—Government do not propose to enquire into the matter.

1509.—Yes.

1510.—In March for private affairs ; but during the April session of the Assam Legislative Assembly he was called to Shillong on duty.

1511.—This question is not understood. The Ministry was already formed before the April session.

1512.—Government have no information. They do not propose to nquire into the matter.

1513.—Unless the hon. member refers to the particular issues of the papers, Government are unable to answer generally. Their attention was however drawn to the *Swadhikar* of 23rd March last.

1514.—Government have no information.

1515.—Unless reliable evidence is produced, Government are unable to consider the matter.

1516.—Yes.

1517—Yes.

1518.—Yes.

1519.—Yes.

1520.—No.

1521.—No.

1522.—Government cannot consider any action in the complete absence of any evidence.

Puratan Chhuta Kushiara River

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

1523. (*a*) Will Government please state if any attempt has been made for dredging the river "Puratan Chhuta Kushiara" situated in the east of Bairagibazar in the Karimganj Subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, how far the work has proceeded ?

(*c*) Will Government state its estimate of the extent of the benefit to accrue to the affected people by the work of dredging the said river ? Were any preventive measures taken against the possibility of the river being silted up again ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that forced labour was employed in this digging work ?

(*e*) (*i*) Is it a fact that Government exacted money for this purpose, from poor villagers, by threat of imprisonment and fine ?

(*ii*) Is it a fact that the villagers had to pay these forced subscriptions ?

(*f*) Will Government please state if any receipts were given to the subscribers and if these subscriptions were collected under instruction of Government ?

(*g*) Will Government please state if these exactions were realised as taxes ?

(*h*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports about this subject in the "*Ananda Bazar Patrika*" dated 5th June under the heading Karimganj News ?

1524. (*a*) Is it a fact that a navigable "*Khal*" running through the village Laha Chura under Police Station Tahirpur in the subdivision of Sunamganj has been blocked by the Sunamganj Local Board authorities and many representations by the affected people of adjoining and distant villages, have been rejected both by the Government and the Local Board Chairman ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the villagers going to North by boat for extracting forest produce and to the South for trading and marketing in the Sachnabazar, are equally affected ?

(*c*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to various protests against this blockade, published in the *Janasakti*, *Jugabheri*, and *Sylhet Chronicle* from time to time specially in the following issues:—

Jugabheri, dated 5th April, 26th April, 14th June and 21st June 1937 and *Janasakti*, dated 16th June 1937 ?

(*d*) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to re-open the canal in question ?

(*e*) (*i*) Is it for the protection of some *Bura* lands of a few Mirashdars that this canal has been closed ?

(*e*) (*ii*) Is it a fact that the Chairman, Local Board, Sunamganj, refused to take any action when villagers living around Halir Haor applied for protection from flood damages done to *Bura* crop through the Ratla Khal, on the ground that this subject (protection of crops) does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Local Board ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1523. (*a*)—Yes, if Puratan Chhuta Kushiara means the Hurugang *khal*.

(*b*)—The Khal which is about 1¾ miles in length has been excavated in full.

(*c*)—It will benefit the people of about 100 villages with about 5,000 *hals* of paddy land. As regards the second part of the question no preventive measures were considered necessary as there is little possibility of its silting up again.

(*d*)—No.

(*e*) (*i*)—No.

(*ii*)—Does not arise.

(*f*)—The work was undertaken under the supervision of a Sub-Deputy Collector at the request of the villagers and in their interest as a scheme under the village up-lift programme. Receipts were given by the Sub-Deputy Collector for the subscriptions paid to him personally.

(*g*)—There were no "exactions".

(*h*)—No.

1524. (*a*)—Yes. It appears that only one representation was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and this was rejected after personal enquiry by the Subdivisional Officer.

(*b*)—They have to take a slightly circuitous route but the extra distance is only about 800 feet.

(*c*)—Government have seen some of the articles.

(*d*)—No.

(*e*) (*i*)—No.

(*e*)(*ii*)—Government have no information.

Dyeing Industry of Making Patee

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1525. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether any steps are being taken by Government to protect the dyeing industry of making Patee (পাটী) in the district of Sylhet specially in places under Police Station Balaganj ?

(*b*) Will the Minister in charge of the Department of Industry state the causes for the melting away of this industry ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the production of the ' Murta ' plant of which these Patees are made, is decreasing ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1525. (*a*)—No.

(*b*) (1)—General economic depression which has seriously curtailed the purchasing power of all the sections of the consuming population.

(2) Cheap Japanese mats on the market.

(3) Tendency of pattee makers to turn to more profitable activities.

(*c*)—There is no systematic plantation of "Murta". It is a wild plant which grows by the side of Khals, and *nalas* and in other marshy places. No care is taken for its growth by the Patee makers. Necessity for using the land for other purposes has probably helped to reduce the amount growing.

Experimental Farms and their activities

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1526. Is it a fact (*a*) that sugarcane cultivation and the rearing of *Endi* and *Muga* are taken up by a large number of cultivators in the province ?

(*b*) Has Government taken any steps to encourage these subsidiary occupations either by distribution of seeds or by supply of capital to the parties concerned ?

1527. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the annual cost of the Titabar Agricultural Paddy Farm, Sugarcane Farm at Borbheta, Sericultural Farm at Titabar and the Cattle Farm at Shillong ?

(*b*) What were the costs of acquisition of lands and buildings, etc., in each of the above ?

1528. (*a*) Have these experimental farms produced any scientific results which may be taken advantage of for the benefit of the *raiyats* ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to extend the activities in more rural areas ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1526. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes, by the distribution of seeds. In the case of *Endi* and *Muga*, Government are also granting aid for the construction of model rearing houses and giving industrial loans in deserving cases.

1527. (*a*)—

Names of the Farms	Year	Expenditure
		Rs.
Titabar Agricultural Farm ...	1935-36	11,407
Jorhat Farm	...	14,124
Upper Shillong Farm ...	...	29,944
Titabar Sericultural Station ...	1936-37	7,120

(*b*)—Upper Shillong Farm—Buildings—Rs.28,295.

Titabar Farm—Buildings—Rs. 38,233. Acquisition of land Rs. 12,409.

Jorhat Farm—Buildings—Rs. 30,301.

Titabar Sericultural Station—Buildings—Rs. 10,942. It is situated on a plot of rented land. Figures of the cost of acquisition of land for the Upper Shillong Farm and for the Jorhat Farm are not readily available.

1528. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes.

Establishment of a Medical School at Sylhet

MR. BAIDYANATH MUKHARJI asked :

1529. Will Government be pleased to state if they have come to any final decision about the establishment of a Medical School in Sylhet, and whether there is any prospect of the question being taken up at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1529. No final decision has been reached. The matter is under consideration.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(Laid on members' tables on 1st September 1937)

Rural Uplift Scheme

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI asked :

1530. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please supply the following information—

(*a*) How many irrigation pumps have been started in each of the subdivisions of the Surma Valley under Rural Uplift Scheme and with what result ?

(*b*) Has there been any difficulty in promptly getting the pumps repaired if any went out of order ?

(*c*) If so, what ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1530.(*a*)—

Habiganj	..	...	...	3
Sunamganj	...	...	...	4
North Sylhet	...	...	...	2
Karimganj	...	...	...	2
Hailakandi	...	...	...	1

Boro paddy was grown on *Amon* land with these pumps. Detailed reports are not yet available but are in the course of preparation.

(*b*)—In a few cases—yes.

(*c*)—The main difficulty was that the Department has not got its own workshop.

Assessment of 'Buniaj' lands in Jaintia Hills

REV. L. GATPHOH asked :

1531. Is it a fact that '*Buniaj*' lands in Jaintia Hills are lands rent-free ?

1532. Will Government be pleased to state how long the "Buniaj" lands have been treated as lands rent-free ?

1533. Is it a fact that Government are contemplating assessing at the next land settlement all 'Buniaj' lands in Jaintia Hills ?

1534. Is it a fact that the number and extent of land grievances in Jaintia Hills have increased in the last 7 or 8 years ?

1535. Will Government be pleased to state the principles according to which house-tax and land revenue are levied in Jaintia Hills ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1531.—'Buniaj' lands in the Jaintia Hills have not been assessed to land revenue hitherto, as the house-tax paid by the owners was deemed to cover the assessment of the land.

1532.—This house-tax was first imposed in 1860, before which date the indigenous revenue system was followed, *i.e.*, the payment of a he-goat once a year from each village ?

1533.—The last resettlement of the Jaintia Hills, *i.e.*, from 1912-32 was renewed for 5 years and then for one subsequent year and, in issuing orders in 1933, Government expressly reserved to themselves the right to review the question of direct assessment of 'Buniaj' lands on expiry of the current settlement. The matter will be considered when the report of the Sub-Deputy Collector, now working in these hills is received before the present settlement expires on 31st March 1938.

1534 & 1535.—It is impossible to give a concise reply to these questions. The whole subject of the assessment of land revenue and house-tax in the Jaintia Hills is very complicated, and has been reviewed on more than one occasion by Government. For a short statement of the history of the assessment, the hon. member is referred to pages 123-124 of the Introduction to the Land Revenue Manual.

Number of Co-operative Credit Societies in the Province

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1536. Is it a fact that there has been a fall in the number of Co-operative Credit Societies in the province ?

1537. Is it a fact that considering the strength of the agricultural population in the province, which is nearly 80 lakhs, the present number of co-operative societies in the province is quite inadequate ?

1538. What do Government think to be the causes which have checked the progress and development of the co-operative movements of the province ?

1539.(*a*) Is it a fact that the working staff in the Co-operative Department is quite inadequate for the propagation and development of the Co-operative movement throughout the Province ?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that many of the working officers namely the Co-operative Inspectors have little knowledge on the subject of rural economics and the principles of co-operation ?

1540. How many "Samitis" or village societies are generally placed under the charge of a Co-operative Inspector ?

1541. Do Government propose to increase the number of qualified Inspectors for propagation and success of the co-operative movement ?

1542. Do Government propose to increase the number of Honorary Organisers ?

1543. What steps the Department has taken to enlist the support of the non-officials in the movement ?

1544. Is there any systematic attempt on the part of the officials in the movement to seek and enlist non-official support ?

1545. Have Government collected any information as to the steps taken by the Punjab Government to tide over the economic crisis, by granting rebate and other concessions to the debtor societies ?

1546. Were such concessions granted to the debtor societies in Assam as a matter of policy ?

1547. Who appoints the Honorary Organisers within a certain area ? Are the Co-operative Central Banking authorities concerned consulted in making the appointments ?

1548. Do Government propose to entertain a whole time Secretary and a clerk for every Central Banking Union, Limited in the Assam Valley ?

1549. Is it a fact that the Supervisors entertained by the Central Banks are mainly employed in helping the Inspectors of Co-operative Societies in preparing the accounts for audit purpose ?

1550. Is there any standard book on audit or Audit Manual for checking the accounts of the Assam Co-operative Societies ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that want of such a book is really a handicap in matter of uniform audit and accounting ?

1551. Do Government propose to encourage preparation of such a book.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1536.—No.

1537.—Yes.

1538.—The prevailing economic depression, the illiteracy of the general population, the lack of knowledge in the principles of co-operation, the inadequacy of the staff of the Department for propaganda work, the lack of interest of the non-official workers and the inefficiency and sometimes dishonesty of some office-bearers, are some of the causes which have checked the progress and development of the movement.

1539.(*a*)—It is inadequate.

(*b*)—No.

1540.—The average number of societies per Inspector in the Province is 94. The number ranges from 39 in Lakhimpur to 136 in Karimganj.

1541.—The matter is under consideration. The Registrar has recently submitted a proposal to Government for the creation of a separate audit staff in order to relieve the Inspectors of the audit work of societies.

1542.—The number of Honorary Organisers has risen from 12 in 1933-34 to 29 at present. Further increase will be considered when necessary.

1543.—By appointing the non-officials as Honorary Organisers and Advisers of Co-operative Societies.

1544.—The officials of Co-operative Department always seek the help of non-official Co-operators wherever they are available and willing to render help.

1545.—No.

1546.—Rebate or other concessions in the shape of partial remission of outstanding interest have been granted within the past few years. In the last two and half years the Provincial Bank has granted relief to the Central Banks by reducing its lending rate from 8½ per cent. to 6 per cent. per annum and this reduction is allowed on all the existing outstanding loans. The Central Banks in their turn have been advised by the Registrar to give similar relief to their debtor societies and some Central Banks have already reduced their lending rates.

1547.—Government. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

1548.—No. It is for the Central Bank to appoint the staff necessary for their own work.

1549.—No.

1550.—No.

(*b*)—No. No difficulty is experienced so far as all the Inspectors who do audit have been given the necessary training.

1551.—No, as several standard books on auditing published by account experts are available for reference.

Supervision of schools at Shillong

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked:

1552. Will Government be pleased to state whether the schools at Shillong are under the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle ?

1553. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, is required ordinarily to go to Shillong for discharge of his duties ?

1554. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the number of times the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, went to Shillong officially in each financial year from 1930 to 1937 ?

(*b*) What were the special object or objects of the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, for going to Shillong on each occasion ?

1555. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amounts paid to the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, on account of his train fare, halting and mileage (giving the totals under each column) for visiting Shillong in each financial year from 1930-1937 ?

1556. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, went to Shillong with his tour clerk on each occasion during the years 1930-37 ?

1557. If the answer to question 1556 is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount paid to the tour clerk on account of his travelling allowance on each occasion ?

1558. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table (*a*) a statement showing the number of times with actual dates the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, visited each subdivision under him during each financial year from 1930 to 1937 ?

1559. Will Government be pleased to state what were the special object or objects of the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, for visiting the subdivisions more than once during each financial year from 1930 to 1937 ?

1560. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of times the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, visited the Government High Schools in each subdivision in each financial year from 1930 to 1937 ?

1561. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, made inspection remarks on each occasion ?

1562. If the answer to question 1561 is in the negative will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not making any inspection remarks ?

1563. Is it a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, accompanied the Director of Public Instruction in his tours during these years ?

1564. Will Government be pleased to state whether it is compulsory that the Inspectors of Schools should accompany the Director of Public Instruction when the latter is on tour ?

1565. If the answer to question 1564 is in the negative will Government be pleased to state the reasons for their doing so ?

1566. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount paid to both the Inspectors of Schools on account of travelling allowances during the financial years from 1930 to 1937 for accompanying the Director of Public Instruction on tour ?

1567. Will Government be pleased to state whether the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, visited the Golaghat Government Bezbarua High School during the financial year 1936-37.

1568. If the answer to question 1567 is in the negative will Government be pleased to state the reasons?

1569. Is it a fact that disciplinary action is taken against subordinate inspecting officers of the Education Department whenever they fail to visit a school in their circle, once during any financial year?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1552.—No.

1553.—Not ordinarily but occasionally.

1554. (*a*)—The compilation of such figures over a period of seven years will not be commensurate with the labour involved. The Inspector of Schools visited Shillong three times during the year 1936-37.

(*b*)—He came in 1936-37 to attend the All Assam Jamboree, the meetings of the Middle School Examination Moderation Board and the Text Book Committee and the convocation of the Assam Sanskrit Association.

1555.—The following amounts were paid during 1936-37. As regards other years, the hon. member's attention is invited to the first part of the reply to question 1554(*a*).

	Rs.	a.	p.
Motor fare	27	0	0
Halting allowance	125	0	0
Mileage	84	0	0

1556.—No.

1557.—Does not arise.

1558.—A statement for the year 1936-37 is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of times with actual dates the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, visited each Subdivision under him during the year 1936-37.

North Lakhimpur—

Dibrugarh—9th and 10th April 1936, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th May 1936 and 8th July 1936.

Sibsagar—30th November and 1st December 1936, 8th and 11th January 1937.

Golaghat—1st June 1936, 1st, 5th, 28th and 30 July 1936.

Jorhat—

Nowgong—15th and 16th July 1936, 17th and 18th October 1936 and 8th and 9th March 1937.

Gauhati—25th, 26th April, 14th and 15th June, 17th to 21st July, 9th to 14th August, 22nd to 24th August, 13th to 15th October, 2nd to 8th November and 13th to 16th December 1936.

Barpeta—7th to 13th June 1936 and 11th August 1936.

Tezpur—1st April 1936 and 24th to 27th May 1936.

Mangaldai—8th to 11th December 1936.

Goalpara—12th to 14th March 1937.

Dhubri—

Garo Hills—

1559.—For inspection of schools. As it is not always practicable for the Inspector on account of urgent duties elsewhere to do all the inspections he wants to do in a particular subdivision, he may have to visit that subdivision more than once in a year.

1560.—A statement for the year 1936-37 is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of times the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle, visited the Government High Schools in each Subdivision during the Year 1936-37.

19th May 1936—
Inspected the Government Girls' High School at Dibrugarh.
8th, 9th and 10th June 1936—
Inspected the Barpeta High Schools.
17th, 18th and 20th July 1936—
Inspected the Collegiate School, Gauhati.
8th and 9th January 1937—
Inspected the Sibsagar Government High School.
9th and 10th December 1936—
Inspected the Mangaldai Government High School.
8th and 9th March 1937—
Inspected the Nowgong Government High School.
12th and 13th March 1937—
Inspected the Goalpara Government High School.

1561 and 1562.—Inspection notes were almost always recorded. But when the Inspector visits a school to see about certain minor points such as site, buildings, etc., he may not record a formal inspection note ; because such a note will not be of any help to the teachers.

1563.—Not always but occasionally.

1564.—It is not compulsory.

1565.—In order that the Inspector of Schools may point out to the Director of Public Instruction the needs of his division.

1566.—The following amounts were drawn during the year 1936-37 :—

Rs.282-0-0	by the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle.
Rs.257-0-0	by the Inspeor ctof Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts Circle.
Total Rs.539-0-0	

1567.—No, but he did soon after.

1568.—It is neither compulsory nor practicable for the Inspectors of Schools to visit every Government High School annually.

1569.—Not always. In some cases the number of schools is so large that it is impossible to visit every school once a year.

Co-operative Movements in Assam

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked:

1570. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether the Co-operative movements in Assam are going to fail due to frequent floods and the consequent financial crisis ? If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to save the situation ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1570.—This question asks for an expression of opinion and Government are not prepared to reply to such questions.

Prevalence of typhoid in Laban within the Shillong Municipality

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1571. Is it a fact that there were several cases of Typhoid recently in that part of Shillong Municipality which is known as Laban ?

1572.(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to state the cause of such cases of Typhoid ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to state the remedial measures taken in respect thereof ?

1573. Is it a fact that the outbreak of the disease was due to the insanitary condition of the place ?

1574. Is it a fact that there are jungles specially bamboos hither and thither in Laban ?

1575. Is it a fact that bamboos create dust and filth in the neighbourhood and obstruct sunshine ?

1576. Do Government propose to eradicate bamboos from the Shillong Municipality or at least where it obstructs sunshine to the neighbourhood ?

1577. Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Khasi and Jaintia Hills does not pay any attention to proposals about the clearance of the jungles and bamboos notwithstanding the recommendations of the Health Officer ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1571.—Yes.

1572.(*a*)—So far as can be ascertained the probable causes were ;—

(*i*)—carriers of the disease—possibly among visitors.

(*ii*)—bad drainage and open back latrines.

(*iii*)—old and leaking water pipes in certain places.

(*b*)—Remedial measures taken—

(1) Search for carriers.

(2) Fitting of flaps to latrines with measures to enforce their use by sweepers and their owners.

(3) Disinfection of latrines.

(4) Clearance of drains—Plan proposed for artificial flushing.

(5) Chlorination and repair of certain pipes. Disuse of one suspected pipe line.

1573.—Yes, to some extent.
1574.—Yes.
1575.—Not to any appreciable extent.
1576.—This is a matter for the Municipality to decide.
1577.—The Deputy Commissioner in his capacity of Chairman of the Municipality gives full consideration to the recommendations of the Health Officer.

Mr. Sudhirendra Bose, a Civil Airman and Proprietor of Akbarpur Pine-apple garden

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked ;

1578.*(a)* Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state whether Mr. Shudhirendra Bose, a Civil Airman (Aviator) and proprietor of Akbarpur Pine-apple garden was severely assaulted on the 16th July 1937 by the Police and drivers jointly and was brought to the Maulavibazar Sadar Thana under arrest ?

(b)(i) Is it a fact that Mr. Bose lodged an Izhar to the Inspector of Police and uptill now no action whatsoever has been taken on that Izhar ?

(ii) If so, why ?

(c) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge propose to make an enquiry and stop the sensation created by the high-handedness of the Police?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1578.*(a)*—Sudhirendra Bose *alias* Sudha Bose of Akbarpur Pine-apple garden was arrested by Police in connection with two cases—*(i)* case No.9*(7)*37 under section 143/341, Indian Penal Code, lodged by 5 drivers who ply their buses on the Srimangal-Maulavibazar road and *(ii)* case No.10*(7)*37, under section 342, Indian Penal Code, lodged by the Veterinary Surgeon, Maulavibazar,—Babu S. C. Chanda.

The Maulavibazar Police went to investigate the aforesaid two cases, reported on 16th July 1937, at Akbarpur garden, accompanied by the complainants of both the cases. On their arrival at the place of occurrence (which is on the Srimangal-Maulavibazar Public Works Department road) they found a scuffle in progress between some drivers on one side and Sudha Bose and his men on the other. The Police intervened apprehending a breach of the peace, but being obstructed by Sudha Bose and his men in the due discharge of their duties, arrested Sudha Bose the ring-leader, after a struggle which resulted in the Police and some drivers being injured and the accused also sustaining some injuries. This necessitated the institution of a case No.11(7)37 by the Police against Sudha Bose and 20 or 25 of his men under sections 147/332/353, I.P.C.

(b)(i)(ii)—No. The accused Sudha Bose filed only a written statement for the purpose of his defence in these cases. This statement was not an " information " (izhar) lodged with the Police.

He has filed a complaint before the Magistrate which is under enquiry and both the cases are *sub-judice* at present.

(c)—No.

Economic survey of the district of Sylhet

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ asked :

1579. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether Government realise that an economic survey of the district of Sylhet, particularly of the flood-affected parts, has become an immediate necessity ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps for an economic survey of the district ?

1580. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the villagers, particularly of the flood-affected areas, are being gradually ruined due to indebtedness ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to state what steps are being taken to save them ?

1581.(*a*) Are Government aware of the difficulties of the people of the district of Sylhet in clearing their debts ?

(*b*) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to improve their condition ?

1582.(*a*) Is it a fact that in England like other most advanced countries the payment of debts can be made within sixty years ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to take steps to adopt such procedure in India ?

1583.(*a*) Is it a fact that the income of the Landlords has greatly decreased ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the fines due to arrears of revenue are being realised in the similar manner as was done in better days ?

(*c*) If the reply to questions Nos. 1583(*a*) and 1583(*b*) is in the affirmative do Government propose to take into consideration the bad days the people now are in, in the matter of realisation of revenue fines ?

1584. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state separately the amount of money, year by year, realised as fines for the arrears of revenue both from the permanently settled areas and Ilam lands in each of the Subdivisions of the Sylhet District for the last five years ?

1585.(*a*) Is it a fact that the landlords, middle class people, cultivators and labourers, all are gradually being driven to heavy indebtedness ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to make arrangements for their remedy ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1579.(*a*)—Government are not prepared to concede that an economic survey of the district of Sylhet is any more necessary than in the other parts of Assam where the incidence of land revenue is infinitely higher.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1580.(*a*)—Government realise that the indebtedness of villagers has increased since the economic depression.

(*b*)—It is hoped that the Money Lenders Act and Debt Conciliation Act which have recently been passed will afford some measure of relief, especially as it appears that the economic condition is slowly improving.

1581.(*a*) & (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1580 above.

1582.(*a*)—Government have no information.

(*b*)—This Government is not in a position to legislate for India as a whole.

1583.(*a*)—Government are aware that landlords have been finding it difficult to realise rent.

(*b*)—Yes ; the incidence of land revenue in Sylhet is exceedingly low.

(*c*)—No account is taken by the Land Revenue Regulation of the prosperity or otherwise of the district concerned, but Government have no doubt that their officers will show due consideration if individual cases of hardship are brought to their notice.

1584.—The information is not available in the Secretariat and there is no time to obtain it from the district for the hon. member.

1585.(*a*) & (*b*)—The hon. member is referred to the reply given to question No. 1581 above.

Area of land held under the ordinary periodic leases

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI asked :

1586. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the total area of land leased by Government for all kinds of cultivation (ordinary and special), in the following districts of Assam, *viz.*, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Cachar ?

(*b*) The total extent of land availed of, by Companies and individuals for Tea cultivation in those districts :—

(1) As grants in fee simple.

(2) Under special leases.

(3) Under other ordinary leases.

With total land revenue and rates received by Government in respect of the above classes of land ?

(*c*) What is the average rate of revenue and rates per *bigha* or acre received by Government from land described in (*b*) ?

(*d*) Of the land described above in (*b*) what area is under actual cultivation and what area is lying waste ?

(*e*) (*i*) What is the total area of land leased out by Government for other special cultivation in the above six districts, and how much of the same are under actual cultivation and how much waste ?

(*e*) (*ii*) What is the total land revenue and rates obtained by Government from the class of land described in (*e*) (*i*), and what comes to be the average rate of revenue rates per *bigha* or acre obtained by Government ?

1587. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total area of land held under ordinary periodic leases (other than *Nispikheraj* and *Lakhrai* leases) and annual leases in the said six districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Cachar ?

(*b*) What comes to the average rate of revenue and rates per *bigha* or acre of the land held under—

(*i*) periodic leases ;

(*ii*) annual leases ?

(*c*) Whether Government ascertained both the gross and net income per *bigha* of land (*i*) held under tea cultivation (*ii*) held under other special cultivation (*iii*) under ordinary cultivation ?

(*d*) If the answer above is in the negative do Government propose to do so now ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1586. (*a*)—The latest figures available are for 1935-36 and are given below—

Lakhimpur	... ...	8,18,263 acres.
Sibsagar	... ...	10,82,509 ,,
Nowgong	... ...	5,64,084 ,,
Darrang	... ...	7,69,789 ,,
Kamrup	... ...	97,566 ,,
Cachar	... ...	6,38,134 ,,

(*b*)—A statement is laid on the library table.

(*c*)—The average rate of revenue is stated below. Figures for local rates are not available.

Lakhimpur	... ...	Rs. 1·37 per acre
Sibsagar	... ...	,, 1·12 ,,
Nowgong	... ...	,, ·88 ,,
Darrang	... ...	,, 1·03 ,,
Kamrup	... ...	,, ·61 ,,
Cachar	... ...	,, ·53 ,,

(*d*)—Information is not available without a survey of all Estates concerned.

(*e*),(*i*)—Two hundred twenty-six *bighas* 12 *kathas* 15 *chataks* in the district of Cachar. The whole of this is under actual cultivation. No land is leased out in other districts for other special cultivation.

(*ii*)—Total land revenue ... ... Rs. 204
Local rate ... ... As. 10

The average land revenue is annas 14 per *bigha*.

1587. (*a*) and (*b*)—A statement showing the area of land under periodic and annual leases for ordinary cultivation up to 1935-36, is laid on the library table. Figures for local rates are not available.

(*c*)—The gross income per *bigha* of land under ordinary cultivation is calculated roughly, and is used as a check only for the assessment which it is proposed to impose at the resettlement. The hon. member is referred to rules 111 and 112 of the Resettlement Manual. The net income is not calculated, nor is the income for land settled for special cultivation.

(*d*) Government do not propose to alter the existing rules. The hon. member is referred to the proviso to section 9(*i*) of the Land Revenue Assessment Act, 1936, which provides the legal basis for the assessment of land under special cultivation.

Number of Lower Primary School-going boys and girls in the province

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI asked :

1588. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Lower Primary School-going boys and girls in the Province, district by district, and according to communities, such as Hindus, Muhammadans, Tribals and Backward tribes, Scheduled castes, etc. ?

(*b*) The number of existing Primary Schools district by district showing their proportion,

(*i*) in reference to the population,

(*ii*) in reference to the number of school-going boys and girls.

1589. Is it a fact that venture schools particularly in backward and tribal areas and among immigrants die out, owing to want of financial help at the beginning ?

1590. Is it a fact that many venture schools in such areas have already ceased to exist for want of financial assistance from Local Bodies or Government ?

1591. Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Education been drawn to the condition of the Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary School teachers serving under the Local and Municipal Boards ?

1592. Is it a fact that the pay of the Local Board teachers is below that of an ordinary peon and some of those engaged in Municipal Boards also get very low pay and are deprived of the amenities of public service such as leave allowances, Provident Fund benefits, etc. ?

1593. Do Government propose to do anything to remove their grievances in the near future ?

1594. Is it a fact that the funds of the Local Bodies allotted by Government for Education are very insufficient and absorbed either in taking up more venture schools or maintaining the existing ones ?

1595. If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of increasing the grants to such bodies earmarking a certain proportion for improvement of the condition of these teachers ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1588. (*a*)—The following figures give the total enrolment :—

District	Enrolments
Sylhet	103,643
Cachar	24,110
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	15,714
Lushai Hills	7,964
Naga Hills	4,325
Lakhimpur	20,626
Sibsagar	38,865
Nowgong	24,531
Darrang	16,426
Kamrup	48,819
Goalpara	31,767
Garo Hills	6,094

Figures by communities are not available and would take months to collect.

(*b*)—The figures are given below :—

Sylhet	2,128
Cachar	542
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	541
Lushai Hills	210
Naga Hills	138
Lakhimpur	449
Sibsagar	653
Nowgong	398
Darrang	383
Kamrup	890
Goalpara	723
Garo Hills	211

(*i*)—Sylhet	1,280·2
Cachar	1,052·6
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	535·9
Lushai Hills	592·4
Naga Hills	1,295·9
Lakhimpur	1,732·57
Sibsagar	1,429·28
Nowgong	1,418·5
Darrang	1,540·3
Kamrup	1,097·4
Goalpara	1,221·2
Garo Hills	904·7

(*ii*)—Sylhet	48·7
Cachar	44·4
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	29·04
Lushai Hills	37·9
Naga Hills	31·3
Lakhimpur	45·93
Sibsagar	59·51
Nowgong	61·63
Darrang	42·88
Kamrup	54·84
Goalpara	43·93
Garo Hills	28·88

1589.—Government have no information but it is probably correct.

1590.—Government have no information but it is probably correct.

1591.—Yes.

1592.—Yes.

1593.—The teachers have recently represented their grievances and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

1594.—Yes.

1595.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

To increase the pay of every primary school teacher under the Local Boards by even Re. 1 per month would cost Rs. 79,000 a year.

Number of Liquidated Co-operative Banks in the Province

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

1596. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Co-operative Banks under orders of liquidation at present in the province of Assam ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any penal interest has been charged on the debtors of such Banks and if so, what is the total amount ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state the total loan of the Government of Assam to each of the following heads :—

(1) The Co-operative Societies of the province (2) "Agriculture" as Agricultural Loans, and (3) Industries ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of deposit in the Co-operative Banks of the province by private persons and the rate of interest for such deposit ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1596. (*a*)—170.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*)—(1) Rs.64,050, (2) Rs. 7,38,000 (3) Rs.15,699.

(*d*)—Rs.43,23,301. Rates vary with different societies from 2½ per cent. to as much as 9 per cent. or 10 per cent. with some rural societies.

Number of Mouzas in the province

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA asked:

1597. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Mouzas in the province with a revenue of Rs.40 thousand and above ?

(*b*) Are Government aware of the growing unemployment in the province and, if so, do Government propose to split up all such mouzas above Rs.40 thousand and settle them with the unemployed educated men of the district so as to meet a fraction of the demand of the educated unemployed.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

1597. (*a*)—Thirty-eight.

(*b*)—The proposal of the hon. member would in the first place be very expensive, secondly academical qualifications are the least important requisite in a Mauzadar, and thirdly experience has shown that, provided that men of sufficiently trustworthy financial position are obtainable, larger mauzas are economically sounder and result in fewer defalcations.

Introduction of the Line System in the Assam Valley

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI asked:

1598. Will Government please state—

(*a*) When and by whom the Line System in the Assam Valley was introduced ?

(*b*) What was the Law under which this system was introduced ?
(*c*) What was the language of the order introducing Line System and who was the signatory ?
(*d*) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the order on the table ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1598. (*a*)—It appears that the first lines were laid down by the Deputy Commissioners of Nowgong and Kamrup in 1920.

(*b*)—By executive order as a measure of expediency in the disposal and settlement of waste lands.

(*c*)—The orders are not traceable.

(*d*)—Does not arise.

Assam Government Press

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI asked :

1599. (*a*) Will Government please state the total number of persons discharged, suspended and degraded in the Assam Government Press, after the present Superintendent reverted from Madras and took over charge of the Government Press ?

(*b*) How many of the discharged and suspended persons are reinstated by Government and how many of them are recalled by the Superintendent himself ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of the confirmed employees, even some with thirty years of approved service were suspended and discharged without any formal proceedings drawn up against them ?

(*d*) If so, why ? and what action if any, has been taken by Government in that connection ?

1600. Is it a fact that the Press employees are ill-treated by the Superintendent and discharged whimsically and compositors are compelled to do the work of distributors and employees are ordered to do the work of coolie ?

1601. If the answer to question No. 1600 is in the affirmative, do Government propose to make an enquiry into the matters and remove the grievances of the Press employees ?

1602. (*a*) Is it a fact that Government received several petitions of complaints against the present Superintendent of the Government press ?

(*b*) If so, what is the nature of those complaints ?

1603. Is it a fact that there was a strike in the Government Press after the present Superintendent came back from Madras ?

1604. Will Government please state whether they propose to reduce the working hours of the Press and introduce the former working hours that is from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. ?

1605. (*a*) Is it a fact that payments are made in all the Government Presses in India under the new Hand Book's Rules and Orders ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to introduce the said Rules and Orders in the Assam Government Press ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1599. (*a*)—Discharged 5
Suspended 4
Degraded ... ... None

(*b*)—One by Government, four by Superintendent of Press.

(*c*) & (*d*)—Two were so suspended for disobedience of orders but were subsequently re-instated by the Superintendent. No action was taken by Gove nment.

1600.—It is not a fact that the Press employees are ill-treated by the Superintendent or discharged without reason. The compositors have to do distributing work also if and when called upon to do so. Such distribution work is carried out in the Government of India and in the other Provincial Government Presses without payment, while this Government pay for it. They are not coolies.

1601.—The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

1602. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—The petitions contain grievances alleging unmerited discharge and supersession.

1603.—No. After his return from Madras where he went on deputation there was no strike.

1604.—No ; the present working hours were fixed from January 1933 after full consideration. The workers are benefited by this change.

1605. (*a*)—No. In all Presses under the Central Government.

(*b*)—No.

Death of a labour Golab Hussain while working in certain lime quarry

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAWDHURI asked :

1606. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that a labour Golab Hussain by name of village Golokpur under police station Tahirpur while working in some lime quarry on the borders of Khasi Hills fell a victim to an accident on 17th June 1937 and subsequently died in Sunamganj Hospital on 20th June 1937 ?

1607. If so, (*i*) do Government propose to make an enquiry as to under what company he was working ? and

(*ii*) Whether that company has made any compensation to the members of his family ?

1608. If the answer to question No. 1607 (*ii*) is in the negative do Government propose to take action so that the employer company may make adequate compensation for the death of Golab Hussain the aforesaid deceased labourer who has left two orphan children ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1606.—Yes.

1607 & 1608.—The matter is being referred to the local Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation with a view to his taking action under section 10A of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Recommendations of the Flood Enquiry Committee

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1609. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) What were the recommendations made by the Flood Enquiry Committee formed in pursuance of a resolution in the Assam Legislative Council in September session of the year 1929 ?

(2) What steps, if any, were taken to give effect to their recommendations ?

(3) Are Government also aware that thousands of families have left and are leaving the district for constant failure of crops ?

(4) If these be the fact, what Government propose to take to save the district from such calamities ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1609. (1)—A copy of the Report is laid on the Library table.

(2)—The main recommendations were generally interdependent on the primary recommendations for the formation of a Waterways Division and as Government have been unable to finance this suggestions it has been impossible to implement the majority of the recommendations of the Committee. The hon. member is referred to the answers given to questions No. 20(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) asked by Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhury, M. L. A., at this session of the Assembly.

(3)—Government are aware that some families have left Sylhet and settled in Nowgong district : they are not aware of any considerable migration to other districts and have no figures to show the extent of migration.

(4)—It is beyond the power of Government to provide against the occurrence of natural calamities such as flood or drought. They can only do their best to relieve distress when it occurs.

Assessment of Local rates in Bhati Langla in the District of Sylhet

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1610. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) Whether they received any representation or resolution from the inhabitants of Bhati Langla (North Langla) in the district of Sylhet protesting against the classification made by the Local Rate Officer for assessment of Local Rates with regard to lands of North Langla included in Pargana Langla on the ground that no proper enquiry was made for such classification and that owing to failure of crops for more than last 15 years, the above lands gave practically no return to the owners or occupiers ?

(2) If so, whether any enquiry was made for ascertaining the cause of their grievance ?

(3) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge state the nature and result of the enquiry ?

(4) If the answer is in the negative will Government be pleased to state way no enquiry was made and how was the representation disposed of ?

(5) Will Government be pleased to state if any regular enquiry was made by the Special Officer before determining these classifications and if so, what is the nature and form of that enquiry ?

(6) Was any enquiry made to find out the area of hills, jungles and other fallow and unproductive lands comprised within the larger estates and the actual return received by the landholders from these lands to determine the annual value as contemplated, 1879 as amended by Act VI of 1926 ?

(7) If not, how were the larger estates assessed ?

(8) In this connection will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) The total area in acreage of the district of Sylhet ?

(*ii*) The number of large estates and total area covered by them ?

(*iii*) The total area of unproductive and fallow lands including hills, jungles etc., included in the large estates ?

(*iv*) The area assessed below the usual rate for reasons stated in 1st Proviso to section 2 of Assam Local Rates Regulation, 1879 as amended by Act VI of 1926 ?

(*v*) Whether the area of arable lands and the actual return received by the owners from those lands were found out in each estate small or big to determine the annual value ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1610. (1)—Yes.

(2), (3) and (4)—The petition was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner for disposal. Government have no information if any enquiry was made.

(5), (6) and (7)—The hon. member is referred to replies to questions Nos. 178 and 179 given to Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee at the present session of the Assembly.

(8) (*i*)—35,77,920 acres.

(*ii*)—954 estates, of which the area is not available in the Secretariat.

(*iii*) and (*iv*)—The information is not available.

(*v*)—The information was not required for the assessment of estates of less than 400 acres area, and it was called for from the owners of large estates.

Rate of assessment on tea-land

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1611. Will Government please state—

(*a*) the rate of revenue at which the tea-land is assessed ?

(*b*) (*i*) Whether the rates bear to the settlement rates levied on lands leased for ordinary cultivation ?

and

(*ii*) to the land revenue realised from the proprietors of the permanent settled districts ?

(*c*) the proportion of local rates in these different classes of lands ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1611. (*a*)—The rates of revenue vary from district to district and even in different parts of the same district. They range from 8 annas a bigha in Kamrup (unsurveyed areas) to Re.1 per bigha over most of the Dibrugarh subdivision.

(*b*) (*i*)—The question is not fully understood. The rates assessed on tea land are generally either the same as, or slightly higher than the rates fixed for similar land not cultivated with tea.

(*ii*)—the average land revenue paid by the proprietors of permanently settled estates in Sylhet is nine pies per bigha. Tea lands in Sylhet are assessed at nine annas and ten annas a bigha.

(*c*)—the ordinary local rate on tea lands is fixed irrespective of classification as khiraj or otherwise under the provisions of the Local Rates Regulation of 1879 section 3. An additional rate is levied in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1926 incorporated as section 3A of the Local Rates Regulation, bringing the total assessment to eight annas a bigha.

Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and Prisons

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1612. Will Government please state—

(*a*) the present salary of the Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and Prisons ?

(*b*) for how long this appointment is being made for the medical Department ?

(*c*) the pay attached to this post when there were non-medical personal assistants ?

(*d*) the reasons that led Government to make appointments to this post from the Medical Department ?

1613. Will Government please state if the temporary services of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons are taken into account when permanent gradation list is made, if not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1612. (*a*)—Rupees 450 per mensem (pay Rs.350 and special pay Rs.100).

(*b*)—Since 23rd April 1929.

(*c*)—Rupees 300—20—400 per mensem.

(*d*)—In Assam, unlike other provinces, the two Departments "Medical" and "Jails" are combined under one Inspector General and it was considered necessary for the efficiency of the administration of both Departments that the post of Personal Assistant should be held by a Gazetted Medical Officer with technical knowledge. It must also be remembered that the Inspector General is absent from headquarters on tour for a considerable part of each year, and there was a demand also from the Medical Officers that the Personal Assistant should be a Gazetted Medical Officer.

1613.—Yes.

Renewal of Gun licenses in Sunamganj

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked:

1614. (*a*) Will Government please state if it is a fact that the guns presented for renewal of licence to the Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, in December 1936 were detained until the subscriptions for Red-Cross Society was paid by the licence holders. Is it a fact that Government directed officials to realise such forced subscriptions ?

(*b*) (*i*) Is Government aware that a fee of annas 12 (twelve) is realised from each of such licence holders at the time of returning their guns ? (*ii*) Is it a fact that they applied on proper stamps ? (*iii*) If so, why such fees were realised and under what section of the Arms Act ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied:

1614. (*a*)—No. No.
(*b*) (*i*)—No.
(*ii*)—Yes.
(*iii*)—Does not arise.

Advanced method of cultivation of Paddy Crop

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked:

1615. (*a*) Do Government propose to introduce the advanced method of cultivation of *Bao* (Shali) paddy in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, when do they propose to introduce the same ?

(*c*) If not, why not ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1615. (*a*)—The hon. member is referred to pages 6, 7, 35, 41, 42, 106, 108, 114, 115 and 118 of the report of the Department of Agriculture for 1935-36 as regards the steps taken for improved methods of cultivation of *Sali* paddy. There is only one centre in Barpeta where demonstration work is being carried out. The area of *Sali* paddy in Barpeta is comparatively small and nothing more can be done in that subdivision at present.

(*b*) and (*c*)—Do not arise.

Grant to the Barpeta Girls' Middle English School

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1616. Do Government propose to sanction a recurring grant of Rs.1,500 (fifteen hundred) annually to the Barpeta Girls' Middle English School, attached to the Barpeta Municipal Middle Vernacular School ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1616.—The question of giving a recurring grant to the Juroram Girls' Middle English School, Barpeta, will be considered.

Method of realisation of land revenue in Barpeta Subdivision

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS asked :

1617. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—whether his attention had been drawn to the fact that the mauzadar of the Gobardhana mauza in the Barpeta subdivision has realised land revenue from the Kachari *raiyats* of the said mauza only recently in March last for the year 1338 B. S. while the *raiyats* were to pay the land revenue for the year 1343 B. S. ?

1618. Do Government propose to make an enquiry about the liability of the *raiyats* for that year and refund the amount so collected as time barred and unduly collected ?

1619. Is the Minister in charge aware of the fact that the said mauzadar of the said mauza collected land revenue from the *raiyats* on many occasions doubly ? If so, what steps did Government take against the mauzadar ?

1620. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether there is any Assamese Immigrant line in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, what steps Government has taken to drive out the encroachers ?

(*c*) Whether many such lines have been opened to the immigrants simply because some of them encroached upon them ?

(*d*) Whether Government propose to restore those lines ?

(*e*) If not, why not ?

1621. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether Government have withdrawn the order of eviction of immigrants from the closed area of Nali and Pithadi villages in Paka mauza in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

(*b*) If so, how they propose to maintain these areas closed against the immigrants ?

1622. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the number of distress warrants issued by the mauzadar in each mauza in the Barpeta Subdivision to realise the revenue and what is the number of sale statement cases for the said year 1342 B.S. ?

(*b*) What is the number of present arrears for the said year ?

(*c*) Whether the Minister in charge propose to remit the said arrears outstanding still now as unrealisable ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1617.—Government received a copy of the resoluti ns of the Gobardhana Mauza Boro Conference held on 11th May 1937 to this effect.

1618.—Government have already made an enquiry. It is reported that those arrears for 1338 B. S., for whose remission applications were refused and which the Mauzadar already paid from his own pocket to clear his demand, were realised by the Mauzadar without coercive measures or help from the Revenue Authorities.

1619. The Mauzadar was found to have realised revenue twice from four persons. As these were solitary instances he was only warned by the Deputy Commissioner and the revenue was refunded to the persons concerned.

1620. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Eviction cases have been instituted against the immigrants who have encroached such lines.

(*c*)—Some lines had to be abolished where Assamese *pattadars* were found to have invited immigrants within those lines by selling lands to them.

(*d*)—No.

(*e*)—Because the Assamese villagers have given away their case by selling their lands, and the re-imposition of the lines would be not only very difficult to accomplish, but would also cause considerable hardship to those who have purchased land within them.

1621. (*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1622. (*a*)—In 1342 B.S. (1935-36), 1,674 sale statement were instituted by the Mauzadars of Barpeta Subdivision. A statement showing the number of distress warrants issued by the mauzadars of each mauza for that year is laid on the Library table.

(*b*)—The present outstanding arrears for 1342 B.S. as this stood on 15th July 1937, is Rs.22,026-8-0 land revenue and Rs.2,096-14-0 local rate.

(*c*)—Steps are being taken for the realisation of arrears. If this is unsuccessful, local officers will submit their recommendations in due course for remission.

Number of applications for Industrial loans for the last 3 years

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1623. Will Government be pleased to state how many persons applied for small industrial loans in 1935, 1936 and 1937 ? (*a*) How many of such applicants were granted and for what sums ?

1624. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Technical Schools in Assam managed by Government, managed by the Local Boards and Municipalities ?

(*a*) Where are they situated ?

(*b*) What is the number of pupils on the rolls of such schools ?

1625. In view of growing unemployment will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of encouraging establishment of such schools by adequate grants ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1623.—24, 29 and 18 respectively.

(*a*)—1935 ... ... One for Rs. 500
1936 ... ... One for Rs. 6,000
1937 ... ... Two for Rs. 200 and Rs. 100.

1624.—There are four Technical schools managed by Government. The Tezpur Local Board maintains a technical school but beyond this Government have no information as regards the number of such schools managed by Local Authorities.

(*a*) and (*b*)—The information as regards Government schools is given below :—

Name of School	Number of pupils
1. Surma Valley Technical School—Sylhet ...	98
2. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Technical School—Jorhat ...	104
3. Fuller Technical School—Kohima ...	24
4. Government Weaving Institute—Gauhati...	49

1625.—Technical training—as pointed out by the Hartog Committee—only creates more unemployed unless there are industries to absorb them. Even at present great difficulty is being felt by the passed students of the Government Technical Schools in obtaining employment. Government are, however, prepared to grant aid in suitable cases.

Number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in Assam

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1626. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the province of Assam, district by district ?

1627. What is the total number of cattle in the Province ?

(*a*) What is the average number of cattle they are expected to treat ?

(*b*) Do Government consider the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons sufficient to cope with the work ?

1628. Is there any demand for more Veterinary Officers ?

(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making sufficient grants to the Boards for opening more dispensaries ?

1629. Are Government aware that there have been cattle epidemics every year and that as a result thousands of cattle die every year in each district of Assam ?

1630. If so, what steps Government have taken or propose to protect and to improve the same ?

1631. Are Government aware that the quality of our cattle are gradually deteriorating ?

1632. If so, what steps do Government propose to adopt to have good breed of stud bulls ?

1633. Will Government be pleased to introduce at least one stud bull of good breed in each Mauza ?

1634. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Tin Diniya Assamiya* of Gauhati, dated 6th July 1937, regarding manufacture of Goat-Virus in Assam thereby protecting the cows as suggested therein ?

1635. If the statement contained in the same article is true what are the reasons for not manufacturing the said serum locally in Assam ?

(*a*) Is it for want of a serum expert ?

(*b*) If so, will Government train one in a suitable place where the said Goat-Virus serum is prepared ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1626.—The distribution of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons by districts is as follows :—

Cachar	7
Sylhet	11

Goalpara	6
Kamrup	13
Darrang	5
Nowgong	3
Sibsagar	8
Lakhimpur	4
Garo Hills	1
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1
Naga Hills	1
Lushai Hills	1
Sadiya Frontier Tract	1

1627.—5,448,670.

(*a*)—There is no fixed rule.

(*b*)—The number is inadequate in the case of epidemics occurring simultaneously in several districts.

1628.—Yes.

(*a*)—Government are prepared to consider any proposal from the Boards.

1629.—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The number of deaths vary in districts according to prevalence and virulence of the epidemic.

1630.—The question of strengthening the staff of the Veterinary Department is under consideration.

1631.—There is no definite evidence to show this but is known to be the general belief.

1632 and 1633.—The hon. member will find further details in the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture. Eradication of weedy bulls by castration, retention of suitable local bulls and providing stud bulls in selected centres are some of the steps taken in this direction.

1634.—Yes.

1635.—The statement is by no means accurate. The vaccine is not manufactured at Gauhati because it would be much more expensive to make it there than to procure it from Bengal.

Number of liquidated societies

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked:

1636. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of societies that have been sent into liquidation during the last ten years, year by year, and district by district ?

1637. Will Government be pleased to state the number of societies the liquidation proceedings of which have been continuing for (*a*) over ten years, (*b*) over five years, with the amount of capital involved in each class ?

1638. Will Government be pleased to state who are the liquidators concerned in it—official or non-official ?

1639. Is it a fact that no interest runs against the members of a society under liquidation, nor against such a society ?

1640. (*a*) Is it a fact that the incompetence and inadequacy of the staff are one of the causes that have led to the general mismanagement of the rural co-operative societies ?

(*b*) If so, what measures have Government taken to improve such a state of affairs ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1636.—The statement below shows the number of societies sent into liquidation.

A list showing the number of societies that have been sent into liquidation during the last 10 years, year by year and district by distric

Years in which the societies were sent into liquidation	Name of the districts									Total
	Darrang	Goalpara	Kamrup	Sylhet	Cachar	Sibsagar	Nowgong	Lakhimpur	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	
1936-37 ...	...	5	9	13	2	6	4	...	...	39
1935-36 ...	...	5	5	8	...	3	2	1	1	25
1934-35 ...	...	7	3	8	1	...	...	...	...	19
1933-34 ...	2	...	6	6	...	3	1	1	...	19
1932-33 ...	...	2	5	9	2	2	...	2	...	22
1931-32 ...	...	2	3	6	2	2	5	...	1	21
1930-31 ...	5	...	3	11	...	5	5	5	...	34
1929-30 ...	3	5	5	10	...	2	2	2	...	29
1928-29 ...	...	2	1	7	3	...	1	1	...	15
1927-28 ...	...	5	1	5	...	7	...	1	...	19

1637. (*a*)—Six societies
Capital involved Rs.12,566-6-2
(*b*) Forty-five
Societies Rs.1,12,953-7-1
1638.—Both—but mainly official.
1639—No.
1640. (*a*)—Government do not accept that incompetence of the staff is one of the causes but they realise that with larger staff the condition of the societies could be considerably improved.
(*b*)—The question of strengthening the staff is under the consideration of Government.

Number of Public Health Dispensaries in the District of Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked:

1641. Will Government be pleased to state the number of Public Health Dispensaries in the district of Nowgong ?
1642. (*i*) Is it a fact that the cases of *kala azar* have increased specially in the following Mauzas, *viz*:—Uttarkhola, Tetelia, Mayang, Mikirbheta and Bardowa—all in the district of Nowgong ?
(*ii*) Has the survey of *Kala azar* cases been made in all the villages of these mauzas ? (*a*) If so, when ? (*b*) What is the number of such cases at present as compared with figures of previous two years ? (*c*) If not, will Government be pleased to depute the adequate number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons to make a complete survey of the villages of these mauzas as early as possible and begin treatment forthwith ?
1643. Is it a fact that the village Karaiguri in Tetelia Mauza, Nowgong, is very badly affected and at least 40 deaths occurred in the said village during the last few months ?
1644. Will Government be pleased to state who visited this village after the first report was received ? (*a*) Has the *Kala-azar* Assistant Surgeon, Civil Surgeon, or Assistant Director of Public Health Department gone to the place to personally enquire into the causes of this abnormal increase of cases of *Kala-azar* and deaths therefrom ?
1645. Will Government be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to combat the increase of the disease ?
1646. Will Government be pleased to state if the village of Karaiguri has been condemned under the Epidemic Disease Act ?
(*a*) If so, will Government be pleased to compensate the people of this village who shall have to abandon their houses and properties ?
1647. Is it a fact that the Sub-Assistant Surgeon who visited the village has advised the villagers to evacuate the village ?
1648. Is it a fact that Government is contemplating to abolish the post of the Director of Public Health and to place the Department under the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:
1641.—Ten.
1642. (*i*)—The information is not available as survey is not done Mauzawari. The total district figure, however, does not indicate any increase.
(*ii*)—No.

(*a*) and (*b*)—Does not arise.

(*c*)—Two extra officers have recently been posted to the district for survey duty.

1643.—This is an affected village but the number of deaths since June 1937 is reported to be seven.

1644.—The Local Board Doctor, Dharamtul.

(*a*).—Both the Assistant Surgeon, Public Health Department and the Civil Surgeon visited the locality.

1645.—Arrangements have been made for treating the persons suffering from the disease.

1646—No.

(*a*)—Does not arise.

1647.—Yes.

1648.—No.

Lumding Town

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1649. Will Government be pleased to state if the Lumding Town in Nowgong is a Municipality constituted under the Assam Municipal Act ?

1650. Will Government be pleased to furnish the following information with regard to this Town :—

(*a*) (*i*) area ?

(*ii*) population ?

(*iii*) number of hats or bazars in it ?

(*iv*) number of pounds in it ?

(*v*) total amount of land revenue realised by Government ?

(*vi*) local rates, if any ?

(*b*) (*i*) who administers this Town ?

(*ii*) if the Railway Company, what is the arrangement ?

(*iii*) who takes the rents of the bazars, pounds, etc. ?

(*iv*) by whom the money so realised is spent ?

(*v*) is it within the Mikir Hills Tract or plains area ?

(*vi*) what is the population of the Hills people ?

(*vii*) what is the number of other people ?

1651. Will Government be pleased to state if the number of Hills people is very small and if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of excluding it from the Mikir Hills area and placing it under the ordinary civil administration of the district ?

1652. If answer to above question is in the negative will Government please state the reasons ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1649. No. Lumding is not a town but a Railway Centre and the following information relates to the area under the control of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

1650.

(*a*) (*i*)—3,111 Bighas.

(*ii*)—3,098.

(*iii*)—One, which sits daily.

(*iv*)—There is no Government pound.

(*v*) and (*vi*)—No land revenue or local rate is realisable on Railway Land.

(*b*) (*i*).—The Assam-Bengal Railway Company.

(*ii*)—The Railway Company make all arrangements.
(*iii*)—The Railway Company.
(*iv*)—By the Railway Company.
(*v*)—It is within the Mikir Hills area.
(*vi*)—Not known.
(*vii*)—Not known. It is mostly inhabited by *ex*-coolies, Marwaries and other Up-country men and Railway employees.

1651.—Reply to the first part is in the affirmative, to the second part in the negative.

1652.—Lumding is remote from the fully administered plains portion of the Nowgong district, and its exclusion would involve administrative difficulties. Apart from this, its removal from a partially excluded area would require the approval of Parliament under Section 91 (2) (*b*) read with Section 309 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Floods in Nowgong District

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1653. Is it a fact that an enquiry was held by the Superintending Engineer, Assam, in 1934, as to the causes of floods in the Nowgong District with a view to the prevention in future ?

1654. Will Government be pleased to state what is his report ?

(*a*) Are Government satisfied with his conclusions ?

1655. Is it a fact that the Superintending Engineer has discarded the utility of embankments for preventing future floods ? And perceived dangers from embankments every where ?

1656. Are not Government aware that there have been embankments for very long time on the banks of the Dikhau and the Bhogdai in Sibsagar District ?

1657. Is it a fact that these embankments have prevented the intensity of floods in those places ?

1658. Are not Government aware that recently His Holiness Sri Sri Garamurya Goswami with the help of the people has constructed an embankment on the south bank of the Brahmaputra in the district of Sibsagar ?

1659. Will Government be pleased to state if any note or report have ever been submitted to the Government of Assam by the Superintending Engineer condemning the said embankments and warning Government the dangers and any bad effects of the said embankments as he points out in his report on Nowgong floods ? If not, why not ?

(*a*) Do Government spend money for the maintenance and upkeep of those embankments ?

1660. Is it a fact that where there are embankments the intensity of the currents is greater allowing no opportunity for deposit or trapping of silts in the bed of the rivers ?

1661. Is it a fact that the banks of the rivers are naturally higher than the adjoining fields in all cases and those high natural banks serve the purposes of embankments ?

1662. Is it a fact that the banks of the rivers in Nowgong for various reasons like earthquake, washing of soils by rains every year, cultivation on the banks and cattle-trampings, etc., are gradually becoming lower, and that as a result of this the rivers over-flood the banks easily ?

1663. Are Government aware that where there is lesser intensity of currents of the rivers they get easily silted, change course, or become dead, as for instance Marikullong, Potakullong, Pathari Patoni and Sonai, etc., in the Nowgong District ?

1664. Will Government be pleased to re-examine with the help of Experts in the line, the questions of embankments, digging canals where necessary and dredging some rivers as it requires, at an early date ?

1665. Will Government be pleased to state the total amounts spent on account of floods :—

(*a*) by way of gratuitous relief,

(*b*) in construction of roads and bridges,

(*c*) other expenses, since the year 1929 in Nowgong District ?

1666. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) What actions, if any, have been taken by Government to translate into action even the recommendations of the Superintending Engineer ?

(*b*) What amount has been spent on this occasion up till now ?

(*c*) Or Government has disagreed with the recommendations in the said report or considered it as a dead letter ?

1667. Is it a fact that the trend of the whole report shows more concern for the safety of the Railway line and bridges than the interests of the people in general ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1653.—Yes.

1654.—A copy of the report has been placed on the Library table in connection with questions Nos. 70-73.

(*a*)—Yes.

1655.—Yes.

1656.—Yes.

1657.—No.

1658.—No. Government have no information on the subject but are making enquiries.

1659.—Yes.

(*a*)—Yes, on those mentioned in question 1656.

1660.—No.

1661.—No.

1662.—No.

1663.—The retardation of currents below the silt carrying velocity is one of the causes of silting.

1664.—Possible after an Irrigation Division is started.

1665. (*a*)—The figures for consecutive years from 1929 not available. In the 1929 flood Rs.29,296 was spent for gratuitous relief and in the 1934 flood Rs.79,646-10-11 was spent for both gratuitous relief and test relief works from the grant received from the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust.

(*b*)—Rupees 2,35,557.

(*c*)—Information has been asked for but not received yet.

1666. (*a*)—Action is deferred until funds are available and until an Irrigation Division is formed.

(*b*)—Nil.

(*c*)—No.

1667.—No.

Area of land in acre in Bijni and Mechpara Wards' Estates

MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

1668. Will Government be pleased to show separately the area in acre of Bijni Raj Wards' Estate and Mechpara Wards' Estate :—

(*a*) The area settled with tenants.

(*b*) The area of Grazing Reserves.

(*c*) The area of Forest Reserves.

(*d*) The area of available waste land for cultivation.

1669. Will Government be pleased to place before the House the budgets of the above mentioned two Estates for the years 1343 and 1344 B.S. ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1668.—Government have no information and doubt whether there is any to this effect in the Manager's office.

1669.—Government do not see their way to lay on the table the Budgets of private estates which have been entrusted to the Court of Wards for management.

Mechpara and Bijni Wards' Estates

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN asked :

1670. Will Government be pleased to state whether any pony allowance is allowed to officers who neither ride nor maintain ponies in Mechpara Wards Estate ?

1671. Will Government be pleased to state the number of officers, community by community, in the Sadr Office, Lakhipur, in Mechpara Wards Estate ?

1672. Is it a fact that all the Brahmin officers of the Mechpara Wards Estate are retained in the Sadr Office ?

1673.(*a*) Is it a fact that the imposition of Son-ban-kar in the Mechpara Wards Estate involves hardship on the tenants ?

(*b*) Do Government propose to withdraw this additional tax on the tenants ?

1674.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the procedure of settlement of Estate purchased land in the Mechpara Wards Estate ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that purchased of lands are settled annually on enhanced rate ?

1675.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the year in which the Bijni and the Mechpara Wards Estates came under Court of Wards ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Managers, and the period for which they held office in Bijni and Mechpara Estates ?

1676. Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of expenditure on (*a*) Establishment, (*b*) Education and (*c*) General improvement in Mechpara and Bijni Estates during the last three years ?

1677. Will Government be pleased to state the number of officers, community by community, in Bijni and Mechpara Wards Estates ?

1678. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government orders regarding representation of various communities in the services are followed in these two Estates ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied:

1670-1674.—Government have no information.

1675.(*a*)—The Court of Wards assumed charge of the Mechpara Estate on the 8th April 1917 and of the Bijni Estate on the 3rd December 1918.

(*b*)—The names of the Managers of the estates are given below:—

Bijni.—1. Mr. R. C. Sen—from the 3rd December 1918 to the 3rd January 1932.

Maulavi Ataur Rahman—from 3rd January 1932 to 31st July 1935.

Srijut Rati Kanta Sarma—from 1st August 1935 to the present date.

Mechpara.—2. Srijut Durgeswar Sarma—from 27th April 1917 to 6th June 1920.

Rai Bahadur Betharam Sarma—from the 7th June 1920 to the 17th July 1921.

Srijut Ramesh Chandra Chaudhury—from the 17th July 1921 to the 22nd January 1927.

Babu Ananda Charan Datta—from the 22nd January 1927 to the 27th June 1927.

Srijut Tirtha Lochan Das—from the 27th June 1927 to the 5th April 1934.

Srijut Trailokeswar Bhuyan—from the 6th April 1934 to the 2nd April 1935.

Srijut Rajendra Lal Uzir—from the 3rd April 1935 to the present date.

1676.—The percentage of expenditure on (*a*) Establishment, (*b*) Education and (*c*) General improvement during the last three years is as follows:—

	Establishment	Education	General improvement
1933-34.—Mechpara	11·6	2·1	2·1
Bijni	16·3	3·4	8·0
1934-35.—Mechpara	12·0	1·8	1·3
Bijni	19·2	4·6	8·3
1935-36.—Mechpara	11·7	1·3	2·0
Bijni	15·9	2·5	5·9

1677.—The hon. member is referred to the answer to question No. 197 asked by Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia at this session of the Assembly. The individual figures of communities classed as non-Muhammadan in that question are not available.

1678.—Government have passed clear orders to the effect that so far as is consistent with efficiency the claims of all communities must be considered. It rests with the communities concerned to put forward efficient candidates. Other things being equal preference will be given to Muhammadan candidates or those of other communities whose representation in the service of the estates is low.

Number of Government and Public Works Department Buildings destroyed by fire

MAULAVI MD. ABDUS SALAM asked :

1679. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state :—

(*i*) The number of Government and Public Works Department buildings which have been destroyed by fire in this Province, in course of last ten years ?

(*ii*) The total loss which may be accounted for those out-breaks ?

(*iii*) The number of buildings which were insured against fire ?

(*iv*) If none, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps for insuring all Government buildings against fire.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1679.(*i*)—Forty-five.

(*ii*)—Rupees 44,319.

(*iii*)—One. The Pasteur Institute, Shillong, which was built partially from funds subscribed by the public. The annual fee for this insurance is Rs.1,272.

(*iv*)—Government do not propose to take any more extended action than at present.

Recommendations of the Flood Enquiry Committee of 1929

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

1680. Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of Land Revenue please state :—

(*a*) To what extent the Government accepted the recommendations of the Flood Enquiry Committee of 1929 ?

(*b*) What action Government has since taken on those recommendations ?

(*c*) The results of the action so taken ?

(*d*) Whether any water gauges were put ? If so, where and how many ?

(*e*) The readings and conclusions from the readings ?

(*f*) If any further action taken on any such conclusions ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1680.(*a*)—Government considered the report and accepted the recommendations in principle as sound.

(*b*)—The main recommendations were generally interdependent on the primary recommendations for the formation of a waterways Division and as Government have been unable to finance this suggestion it has been impossible to implement the majority of the recommendations of the Committee.

(*c*)—A list of bridges raised and widened is laid on the table.

LIST OF BRIDGES RAISED AND WIDENED

	Surma Valley
1. Poamara bridge, mile 241.	This bridge has been raised to give the same headway as that of the Local Board road bridges, *vide* letter No. A.P./318, dated the 10th December 1931, from the Assam-Bengal Railway.
2. Bridge No. 16, mile 248.	After investigation it was found that this bridge was not used by boats hence no action was taken.
3. Longai river bridge at Kalkalighat.	The headway of this bridge has been raised.
4. Bridge No. 8, mile 264¾.	Same as item 2 above.
5. Bridge No. 42, mile 264¾.	The headway of this bridge has been raised, *vide* letter No. A.P./318, dated the 23rd March 1934.
6. Matijuri bridge, mile 211¼.	The size of this bridge has been increased to 2—40′, 2—30′ and 3—20′ spans, *vide* letter No. 318, dated the 19th December 1931.
7. Bridge, mile 186/9	This bridge has been replaced by 3—40′ spans, *vide* letter No. 318, dated the 19th December 1931.
8. Openings between mile 230/6 & 232.	Afflux gauges have been fixed at miles 231 and 233, *vide* letter No. 318, dated the 19th December 1931.
9. Badarpur bridge ...	The matter was dropped owing to financial stringency.
	Assam Valley
1. Mile 212/14 beyond Sankosh river.	Information asked for.
2. Putimari river bridge, bridge 314½.	A guide bund on the left bank of the river near Putimari Railway Station has been provided, *vide* letter No. 81G/2, dated the 7th December 1931 and the portion of the road near the bridge raised.
3. Mile 435/5 (Jagi road to Dharamtul).	Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, considered that no additional waterways are necessary and matter was dropped.

(*d*)—The Railway Companies concerned reported that gauges were erected at the points suggested by the Committee.

(*e*) and (*f*)—Information regarding the more recent readings of the gauges have been called for but not yet received. Previous readings for two years after the Committee sat showed that no action were necessary.

Construction of a bund opposite the Radhanagar Dhala

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI asked :

1681. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether any bund has been put up under the supervision of Mr. Khurshed, Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, on a *nala* opposite the Radhanagar Dhala ?

(*b*) If so, under what authority and from what funds, the expenses were met ?

1682. Will Government be pleased to state whether this bund has effected the action of the Radhanagar Dhala (opposite) in any way ? If so, in what way ?

1683. Do Government propose to consider the propriety of allocating the subject of damages by floods, either under Agriculture or Public Works Irrigation Department instead of allocating the same under Land Revenue ?

1684. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government asked for any assistance from the Central Board of Irrigation in the matter of damages of the areas affected by floods ? If not, why not ?

1685. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter heading "বানাইয়া হটে হাওর চর" of Maulavi A. T. Sufi, Secretary Krishak Samity, in *Janasakti* of 30th June last saying that Kalnichar Dhala waters have completely destroyed crops on the our sides of Baniarhaor ?

1686. If so, do Government propose to enquire and state if the description mentioned therein is substantially correct ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :—

1681. (*a*)—No.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1682.—The Subdivisional Officer, Sunamganj, reports that he has no information about the effect of any bund on Radhanagar Dhala, nor was any complaint brought to his notice.

1683.—Government do not see any reason for changing the existing procedure.

1684.—No. The Central Board of Irrigation investigate problems sent them by Irrigation Departments and do not themselves carry out investigations in the province.

1685.—No complaint was received by the local officers.

1686.—Does not arise.

Number of Non-gazetted, Non-ministerial appointments and Gazetted appointments held by Muslims in the Province

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURI asked :

1687. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, showing cadre by cadre, in each department, the number of appointments to which Muslims are entitled, and the number of appointments held by them, in the non-gazetted and non-ministerial services under the Government of Assam ?

1688. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of ministerial appointments to which the Muslims are entitled and the number of posts held by them in the Assam Secretariat and in the offices of different Heads of Departments ?

1689. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, showing, cadre by cadre, in each Department the number of appointments to which the Muslims are entitled, and the number of appointments held by them, in the Gazetted services under the Government of Assam ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1687.—A statement giving aggregate figures is placed on the Library table for the information of hon. members. Government regret they cannot give the information cadre by cadre, as the results obtained would be incommensurate with the great labour involved.

1688 and 1689.—Statements are placed on the Library table.

Number of Constables stationed at Goalpara

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD AMJAD ALI asked :

1690. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) What is the number of ordinary constables stationed at Goalpara ?

(*b*) Whether it is one of their duties to escort prisoners from Goalpara to Gauhati and sometimes to Dhubri ?

(*c*) How long the present strength of constables is maintained in Goalpara Police station ?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable increase in the population within Goalpara thana during last two decades and consequent increase in the number of serious crimes ?

(*e*) Whether Government propose to increase the number of constables in the Goalpara Police station so as to give adequate protection to the inhabitants of the town ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1690. (*a*)—Thirty-six.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Since 10th February 1936.

(*d*)—Yes.

(*e*)—There is no such proposal at present. According to existing standards, the town of Goalpara is well protected.

Number of persons from Assam Valley who obtained M.B. degree from the Calcutta University

SRIJUT JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

1691.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to each district of Assam Valley who have obtained M.B. degrees from the Calcutta University within the last ten years ?

(*b*) How many of them were awarded stipends by the Government of Assam and to what districts they belong ?

(*c*) How many Assistant Surgeons in Medical and Public Health Departments were appointed by the Government during the last ten years and the districts to which they belong ?

1692. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the number of appointed Assistant Surgeons who were Government stipend holders for their studies in the Medical College and (*b*) districts to which they belong ?

(*c*) Whether there was any stipend holder from the district of Goalpara ?

(*d*) If so, whether there is any such person in Government service ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied—

1691.(*a*)—The information as far as available is given below —

Kamrup	6
Nowgong	2
Goalpara	2
Sibsagar	7
Lakhimpur	2
Name of native district not available	1
Total ...	20

(*b*)—Ten as follows—

Lakhimpur	1
Goalpara	1
Sibsagar	4
Kamrup	4
Total ...	10

(*c*)—Eleven—

Sylhet	3
Domiciled in Assam	3
Sibsagar	2
Kamrup	2
Nowgong	1
Total ...	11

1692.(*a*) and (*b*)—Nine belonging to the following districts—

Darrang	2
Sylhet	4
Kamrup	1
Cachar	1
Sibsagar	1
Total ...	9

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—No.

Management of the Court of Wards Estates

SRIJUT JOGENDRA CHANDRA NATH asked :

1693. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) For how many years the Mechpara Estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards ?

(*b*) What were the reasons for which the management of the Estate was taken over by the Court of Wards ?

(*c*) Was it for payment of debts ?

If so, have the debts been cleared off ?

1694. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that the tenants of the said Estate in their annual conference have demanded the release of the Estate from the management of the Court of Wards ?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to inform whether they propose to hand over the management to the proprietors ?

1695. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that Nikhil Goalpara Krishak Sanmiloni in its two successive sessions has demanded that the retainership of the Bijni Raj and Mechpara Estate should be given to the tenants of the respective Estates ?

(*b*) Is Government aware of the fact that highly competent persons from amongst the tenants of both the Estates are practising in the local bar ? If so, do Government propose to satisfy the just claims of the tenants ?

1696. Will the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the old indigenous tenants of Mechpara are being prevented from collecting fuel and thatching grass for domestic purposes ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that the forest guards are terrorising the village people in some localities ?

(*c*) Whether Government propose to ask the Estate authorities to allow the indigenous tenants to enjoy their age-long rights to collect fuel and thatching grass for home consumption without any fear of molestation by the forest officers ?

1697. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state —

(*a*) The number of certificate cases filed by the Mechpara Estate since January, 1936 ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that in the majority of cases the lands pass into the hands of the middle class or land speculators ?

(*c*) The causes of the inability of the tenants to pay arrears of rent ?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that the continuous bad prices of agricultural products are the main cause ?

(*e*) Whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Estate authorities to stop instituting certificate cases for some time ?

1698. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that in the case of the Garo tenants of the Mechpara Estate the agricultural rent per *baku* has been enhanced from Re.1 to Rs.2-10-6 ?

(*b*) When it was enhanced and why ?

(*c*) Do Government propose to make an enquiry and take steps to ask the Estate authorities to reduce the rent ?

1699. Will the Hon'ble Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of times the Mechpara Estate has enhanced the rents during the last twenty years ?

(*b*) What were the different classes of lands previously in the Mechpara Estate ?

(c) Was it formerly classified into six varieties ?

(d) Whether it has been abolished now ? If so, from which year ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the classification has been modified to only two at present and that also in *dihis* where settlement has not yet been done ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that new assessment at enhanced rates are being made on the basis of the new classification in all the *dihis* ?

(g) Whether Government propose to take steps to remedy this state of affairs at an early date ?

1700. Will the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) If the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that an acute discontent prevails amongst the tenants of the Bijni Raj Estate owing to the present system of creating big coupes of improvement felling and selling them to big contractors and not to the tenants of the said Estate ?

(b) Whether Government propose to instruct the Estate authorities to make small coupes of improvement felling enabling the petty local contractors to bid in the auction sale ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1693. (a) Since April 1917.

(b) and (c)—The Mechpara Estate was in a state of chaos and confusion owing to disputes among several of its proprietors. On the application of one of its proprietors for the appointment of a common Manager under section 93 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the District Judge placed the estate under the Court of Wards, *vide* his order No. 9, dated the 6th March 1917.

1694. (a)—No.

(b)—It is for the co-owners to move the District Judge in the matter, if they desire the estate to be relieved of its administration by the Court of Wards.

1695. (a) and (b)—Government have no information.

1696. (a)—No. They are allowed to collect fuel and thatching grass for domestic purposes on payment of Re.1-8 a year as 'sanban' which is charged under the prevailing custom of the estate.

(b)—No such complaint has been received by the Manager and the local officers.

(c)—Does not arise.

1697. (a)—The figures available for the year 1935-36 show that 365 certificate cases were filed.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c) and (d)—The collection of rents in 1935-36 was unsatisfactory, partly due to the partial failure of jute and *sali* crops, and partly due to low prices of agricultural products. Collections improved considerably in the year 1936-37.

(e)—Instructions have already been issued that indiscriminate filing of certificate cases should be stopped in the Wards Estates and that only a few selected cases should be filed where there are good prospects of recoveries.

1698. (a)—No. The rate of agricultural rent for *Baku* in the case of such tenants is Rs.2-10-6 for the Lakhipur and Nachinipara circles, and Re. 1-8 elsewhere as before.

(b)—These rates have been in force since pre-court times.

(c)—Does not arise.

1699.(*a*)—There has been no general enhancement during the last 20 years, but, in the case of Nachinipara settlement, estate *khas* land found in occupation of tenants was assessed at new rates.

(*b*)—There were six different classes of lands previously in the Mechpara Estate namely :—" Bastu ", " Udbastu ", " Auel ", " Diam ", " Siam ", and " Chaharan ".

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—The new classification made during the Nachinipara Settlement Operation under the heads " Bari ", " Bastu ", " Udbastu " and " Abadi " are being given effect to in respect of newly settled waste lands only from the year 1340 B.S. last, the old classifications continuing for old holdings.

(*e*)—The classification is applicable to newly settled waste lands only in all the Dehis.

(*f*)—Only in the case of newly settled waste lands.

(*g*)—No.

1700.(*a*)—No such acute discontent has been brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner. Local people secured 26 out of the 33 coupes in auction.

(*b*)—This is already being done.

Representations for remission of land revenue in Barpeta subdivision

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1701.(*a*)(*i*) Is it a fact that a severe hailstorm overtook some 9 or 10 villages in the Gobardhana mauza of the Barpeta subdivision in December, 1936 last causing great havoc to Sali paddy and mustard crop, the main stay of the poor agriculturists of the localities ?

(*ii*) Is it a fact that the people of the storm affected areas made several representations to the authorities praying for remission and suspension of land revenue of the plots for the year 1343 B.S. ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please state—

(*i*) If any any enquiry was made into the matter ?

(*ii*) If so, when, by whom and with what results ?

(*iii*) If relief was granted ?

(*iv*) If so, when and to what extent ?

1702.(*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state, subdivision by subdivision and year by year for 4 years up to 1936-37—

(*i*) The number of sale statement started, number of sales effected and the number of cases proved abortive owing to insufficient bid or no bid in the province ?

(*ii*) The amount of land revenue demand and the amount collected ?

(*iii*) The amount of fishery revenue demand and the amount collected ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge please state what are the amounts of (*i*) land revenue and (*ii*) fishery revenue of the province remaining outstanding at the end of the years 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36 and 1936-37 ?

1702. (*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue aware that there have been cries all over Assam for reduction of land revenue by 50 per cent.?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister please state what action Government are taking to meet this demand of the people ?

1703. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Mauzadar of Kharija-Bijni in the Barpeta subdivision issued, for the revenue of 1343 *B.S.* different distress warrants at one and the same time in respect of each one of the estates belonging to one and the same individual and realised Re. 1 extra over the revenue on each of these warrants as penalty ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in the Kharija-Bijni mauza, the 15th of March is the last *kist* day of a year for paying up revenue by the *ryots* as shown in the pattas ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Mauzadar of Kharija-Bijni issued distress warrants and realised revenue of 1343 *B.S.* before the 15th of March 1937 ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that some of the *raiyats* thus affected made representations to the authorities praying for enquiry and redress ?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please state if any enquiry was made and if so, with what result ?

1704. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Mauzadar of Gobardhana in the Barpeta subdivision while receiving revenue payments in 1343 *B.S.* granted many receipts as payments for 1338 *B.S*,. and did not intimate the *raiyats* concerned about the appropriation ?

1705. Is it a fact (*a*) that representations were made to the authorities alleging that the said payments were payments for 1343 *B.S.* ?

(*b*) If so, will Government please state whether any enquiry was made, and

(*c*) whether the *raiyats* concerned were found defaulters for 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342 and 1343 *B.S.* also ?

(*d*) if reply to (*c*) above is in the negative, will Government please state whether the Mauzadar was entitled to appropriate the amount for 1338 *B.S.* ?

1706. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please state—

(*a*) The total area of agricultural land settled with (*i*) the immigrants and (*ii*) the indigenous inhabitants, in each of the subdivisions of the Assam Valley during the last ten years from 1927-28 to 1936-37 ?

(*b*) the total area of agricultural land remaining available for settlement at the end of 1936-37 in each of the above subdivisions ?

(*c*) If Government are considering to find out ways and means to restrict and stop further settleme t with new coming immigrants with a view to retain sufficient land for natural expansion of the present population of the province ?

1707. (*a*) Is it a fact that the portion of the Chaulkhowa river lying in the Barpeta subdivision is a very big and important fishery bringing in thousands of rupees to Government as fishery revenue every year ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a portion of the said river between the Chaulkhowa bridge and Medhirtari village was silted up by earthquake a few years back blocking the free flow of water in the dry season and deteriorating the Chaulkhowa fishery ?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please consider the possibility that draining out the aforesaid silted portion will not only improve the fishery but will also help to improve the sanitation and agriculture of its neighbourhood both up and down ?

(*d*) If so, does he propose to take steps to make early provision for cutting out the said portion to allow free flow of water throughout the year as before ?

1708. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue please state year by year, for 3 years from 1934-35 to 1936-37 for the Assam Valley Division ?

(*i*) the number of lease, land revenue on which, calculated at the current *bigha* rates, is 8 annas or less and is yet assessed at Re.1 per lease ?

(*ii*) the number of leases, land revenue on which calculated as aforesaid is more than 8 annas but less than a rupee and is yet assessed at Re.1 per lease ?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what amount of land revenue has accrued to Government for the 3 years from 1934-35 to 1936-37 in excess of what would have actually accrued on the leases mentioned in question 1708(*a*)(*i*) had the revenue been calculated on the basis of the *bigha* rates fixed, by the application of the section 48, Chapter I, Part II of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1701.(*a*)(*i*)—There was a hailstorm, but the damage caused is reported to be slight.

(*ii*)—There were petitions for remission of revenue.

(*b*)(*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—On 3rd January, 1937, by the Subdivisional Officer, who found that the damage was not severe. A detailed report on the petitions by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Barnagar, is being awaited.

(*iii*)—The question of relief will be considered when the Sub-Deputy Collector's report is received.

1702.(*a*)(*i*)(*iii*) & (*b*)(*ii*)—Two statements are laid on the Library table.

1702.(*a*)(*ii*)—The amount of land revenue demand and amount collected in the province is as follows :—

Year	Demands	Collections
	Rs.	Rs.
1933-34	1,51,41,455	96,43,812
1934-35	1,57,73,267	1,03,74,669
1935-36	1,56,63,128	1,09,58,904
1936-37 (for plains districts only)	1,48,35,425	1,12,44,857

1702.(*b*)(*i*)—

Year	Outstanding land revenue
	Rs.
1933-34	52,63,159
1934-35	51,08,417
1935-36	45,09,338
1936-37 (for plains districts only)	35,55,761

1702. (*c*) and (*d*)—There are a number of resolutions in this session of the Assembly for reduction of land revenue by 50 per cent. The matter will be discussed in that connection when the views of Government will be explained to the House.

1703. (*a*)—No. The mouzadar issued some separate distress warrants against the defaulters of some pattas held jointly by different persons. But there happened to be one common pattadar in these pattas and distress warrants.

(*b*)—With the close of the last resettlement when resettlement pattas were issued, the Kist date of old Bijni mauza, of which Kharija-Bijni mauza is an off-shoot was 15th March. This date was apparently noted in the pattas as the Kist date of that mauza. Subsequently it was revised as 1st Kist on 15th January and 2nd Kist on 15th February for regular settlement and 15th March for supplementary settlement.

(*c*)—Yes, he issued about 9 distress warrants by the 1st week of March 1937, all for regular settlement pattas including therein supplementary settlement pattas held by the same persons.

(*d*) and (*e*)—The matter is under enquiry by the Sub-Deputy Collector, Barnagar.

1704. (*a*) and 1705. (*a*) (*b*) (*c*) (*d*)—An enquiry was made and it was found that those arrears of 1338 *B.S.* for whose remission applications were refused and which the mauzadar already paid from his own pocket to clear his demand were realised by the mauzadar without any coercive measure or help from the Revenue Authorities. The sanctioned list for remission with those items not remitted for 1338 *B.S.* was received back in instalments in 1934 from the appellate authorities.

1706. (*a*) and (*b*)—Information cannot be supplied as there are no such statistics.

(*c*)—The matter will be considered by the Committee appointed to examine the Line System.

1707. (*a*) and (*b*)—Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*)—Government is prepared to consider if a formal petition is received from the people affected whether such a work is possible whether it would be sufficiently permanent to justify the cost involved and whether it will benefit the general public as well as the fishery lessees.

1708. (*a*) (*i*) (*ii*) (*b*) (*i*)—The information cannot be supplied as there are no such statistics.

Number of Venture Primary Schools in Barpeta Subdivision

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked:

1709. (*a*) Will Government please state if it is a fact—

(*i*) that there are about 35 venture primary schools in the Barpeta subdivision ?

(*ii*) that the same are run by agriculturists of the villages and most of them are existing for a long time ?

(*iii*) that for paucity of funds the Barpeta Local Board has not been able to take them up ?

(*b*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to make provision of special grants to the Barpeta Local Board so as to enable it to take over the said schools ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1709. (*a*) (*i*)—No. There are 54 venture primary schools in the Barpeta subdivision.

(*ii*)—Yes.

(*iii*)—Yes.

(*b*)—An increased grant will be made to the Board for the purpose of taking over some of the schools.

Number of Co-operative Rural Societies in the Surma Valley

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN asked :

1710. Will Government please state the total number of Co-operative Rural Societies in the Surma Valley ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the majority of these societies are in heavy arrears ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that such arrears are mainly due to the bad economic condition of the people ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that better realisation of arrears can be effected by granting the debtors of a long term instalments of small amounts ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Co-operative movement is growing unpopular amongst the general masses ?

(*f*) If so, do Government propose to take suitable steps for making it more popular and workable ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1710.—630.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Slackness on the part of the office bearers of societies to take timely action for recovery of the dues as well as general economic depression are the main causes of the arrears.

(*d*)—Yes, but rural societies having borrowed for short terms cannot give easy instalments for long terms.

(*e*)—No.

(*f*)—Does not arise.

Realisation of local rates from Tea Estates

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA asked :

1711. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the additional local rate at eight annas per acre, of land under tea is being realised from Tea Estates ?

(*b*) If so, from when ?

(*c*) What amount has been received in each subdivision of the Assam Valley Districts every year since the imposition of the rate ?

(*d*) By whom the fund so raised has been administered and who constitutes that Board ?

(*e*) What roads have been constructed in each Subdivision so far from the said fund ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1711. (*a*)—Yes, but the additional rate is not 8 annas an acre but the difference between the ordinary local rate and eight annas.

(*b*)—From 1st April 1927.

(*c*)—The amounts received from each district in the Assam Valley since the inception of the Fund up to the 31st May 1937 are given below. It will entail much time and labour to find out the exact amounts received every year from each district or subdivision since 1927. The approximate

annual income based on the average of the last 10 years is also noted against each district.

	Total income from 1927 up to 31st May 1937	Average annual Income
	Rs.	Rs.
Goalpara	2,140	200
Kamrup	14,917	1,400
Nowgong	42,278	4,000
Darrang	2,31,758	23,000
Sibsagar	3,45,462	35,000
Lakhimpur	3,44,420	34,400
Total ...	9,80,975	98,000

(*d*)—The above fund is administered by a Board consisting of—

(*i*)—The Finance Minister.

(*ii*)—The Chief Engineer.

(*iii*)—Two members nominated by the Assam Branch of the Indian Tea Association.

(*iv*)—One member nominated by the Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association.

The Deputy Secretary to Government in the Finance Department is the Secretary of the Fund.

(*e*)—The roads that have been constructed or improved in the Assam Valley since 1927 are as follows :—

	Cost Rs.
(*i*)—Metalling and surfacing 10·75 miles of the Jorhat-Moriani Road	4,66,125
(*ii*)—Metalling and surfacing of 7½ miles of the Assam Trunk Road, Lakhimpur District	2,69,604
(*iii*)—Constructing a road 4½ miles between Mazbat and Panchnoi river in the Borsola Circle, Darrang ...	9,000
(*iv*)—Improving 6½ miles of the Road between Mazbat and Rowta River in the Borsola Circle, Darrang ...	10,624
(*v*)—For improvement of roads in the Tezpur Circle, Darrang (Works in progress)	78,584
(*vi*)—For improvement of roads in the Bishnauth Circle, Darrang (Works in progress)	76,800

Flood in North Lakhimpur

SRIJUT SARVESWAR BARUA asked—

1712. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How many villages in the subdivision of North Lakhimpur were affected by the recent flood and in which Mauzas they are situated ?

(*b*) How many families got their granaries of paddy damaged by the flood ?

(*c*) To what extent have *ahu*, *sali* and jute cultivations been damaged in each Mouza.

(*d*) How many cattle have died or been washed away during the flood ?

(*e*) What is the total estimate of loss in each mauza ?

(*f*) (*i*) What relief, if any, was rendered by the official and non-official relief organisations, to the people ?

(*ii*) From what funds ?

(*g*) What roads, if any, and how many places on each of them have been breached during the flood ?

(*h*) (*i*) Whether any loss of life or property other than cultivation, has occurred, (*ii*) if so, where and to what extent ?

(*i*) Whether any pestilence has broken out any where in the flood-striken places ?

(*j*) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to combat the same ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :—

1712(*a*).— 4 villages in Nakari Mauza.
4 ,, ,, Lakhimpur ,,
16 ,, ,, Kamalabaria ,,
11 ,, ,, Telahi ,,

Total 35 villages, of which 8 villages in Kamalabaria and all the villages in Telahi mauza were heavily affected.

(*b*)—It cannot be ascertained at present. The paddy in the lower strata of some granaries were damaged in the areas heavily affected.

(*c*)—Damage to *sali* cultivation cannot be ascertained at present but there was no damage to *Ahu* and jute.

(*d*)—None.

(*e*)—This cannot be ascertained at present. The loss is estimated to be not great.

(*f*) (*i*)—Gram, salt, rice and *dal* were distributed to the needy people by official relief organisation supported by the assistance of non-officials.

(*ii*)—From the Relief Fund at the disposal of the Subdivisional Officer. There were also donations of rice, etc. from some gentlemen and the Marwari community and some amount from a Public relief fund organised during the flood.

(*g*)—Kamalabari road breached in two places, Deobil road breached in three places, Goriajan road breached in three places including one near the town. Bagalijan road breached in two places and Charaimoria road breached in two places.

Chouldhowa road was breached in two places by the Subansiri flood at about the same time.

(*h*),(*i*) and (*ii*)—No loss of life or property except the *soaked* paddy in the granaries.

(*i*)—No.

(*j*)—Does not arise.

Realisation of Land Revenue in Sibsagar and Kamrup Districts

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1713. Will Government be pleased to state the total increment of land revenue and local rates separately in the districts of Sibsagar and Kamrup as a result of the last Re-settlement with the following details :—

(*a*) Classification of lands ?

(*b*) Classification of villages, and

(*c*) Rate of assessment, maximum and minimum, in each class of land in different villages ?

1714. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the number of estates with the total area sold for arrears of land revenue and the average price per bigha of land so sold in the said two districts year by year since 1932 till 1937, (*b*) the number of estates annulled with the total area and the revenue demand mauza by mauza in the said two districts, (*c*) the number of persons evicted from the annulled estates ?

1715. Is it a fact (*a*) that a large number of persons were evicted from the annulled estates and their standing crops were destroyed by authorities with the aid of elephants and houses were set on fire, in the mauzas of Amguri and Khorikotia in the Jorhat subdivision in 1935; (*b*) that a large number of persons were prosecuted and fined under Section 188 I. P. C, for alleged occupation of the annulled estates in 1937, and (*c*) that the authorities attached and removed the corrugated iron sheets from the roof of a granary in 1933 for arrears of land revenue in the said mauza, and the paddy was allowed to perish, and that the aggrieved party filed a complaint in the Court whereupon the corrugated iron sheets were returned to him ?

1716. Is it a fact (*a*) that the yield of paddy per acre is going down from one resettlement to another, (*b*) damages to standing crops by floods and insects have become more common, (*c*) that cattle diseases and epidemics have become more numerous than before, (*d*) that rural indebtedness has greatly increased, (*e*) that the assessment of land revenue is increased by 50 per cent., (*f*) cost of living is greatly increased, (*g*) the price of agricultural produce has gone down, (*h*) price of land sold for arrears of land revenue is fixed at Rs.2 to Rs.5 per bigha only ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1713. The increment of land revenue on ordinary *khiraj* lands at the last re-settlement was Rs.3,33,678 in Sibsagar district and Rs.3,35,007 in Kamrup district, similar information as regards the local rates is not available. It will be called for, if necessary.

(*a*) In Sibsagar the following classes of land were separately assessed :—*Bari Charanpara, Alatiya, Balichahiya, Jalatak, Chechuria* and *Faringati* with sub-classification into *Bhal Bari, and Takala* under *Bari* and *Da* and *Bam* under the next four classes.

In Kamrup the classification was *Ahutali, Kharmatali, Laghantali, Bardhantali, Bantali, Banatiya, Jalatan, Faringati* and *Bastis* with somewhat similar but slightly modified sub-classifications under the various heads.

(*b*) The only classification of villages was by the unit rate assigned to it. In each case villages were classified in a separate group.

(*c*) The rate of assessment in different groups only can be given and a statement is laid on the Library table.

1714. (*a*) For the number of Estates sold the hon. member is referred to column 10 of Appendix VI of the Land Revenue Administration Report for the respective years. No information is available as to the total areas of the lands sold or of the average price per bigha realised, and the collection of such statistics would involve a disproportionate amount of labour.

(*b*) and (*c*)—The information is not available and cannot be collected without disproportionate labour.

1715. (*a*) and (*b*)—On receipt of a telegram on 13th November 1934 from certain villager of these two mauzas, an enquiry was instituted. The report of the enquiry held by the Sub-Deputy Collector is laid on the Library table, and the Government of the time approved of the action taken by the Deputy Commissioner.

(*c*)—Government have no information, and as the occurrence is alleged to have taken place four years ago, Government do not see the necessity for enquiry.

1716. (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*e*) and (*f*)—Government are not prepared to admit this as information in their possession does not warrant any such definite conclusion.

(*d*)—The economic depression has no doubt increased the indebtedness of the ryots.

(*g*)—The price of agricultural produce dropped, but a rise in price has been since noticed.

(*h*)—There is no fixed price for lands sold for arrears of land revenue. It varies in different districts and at different times.

Number of appeals heard by Revenue Tribunal

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :—

1717. Will Government be pleased to state what kinds of appeals are heard by the Revenue Board or Revenue Tribunal ?

1718. Will Government be pleased to state how many Revenue appeals and how many Excise appeals were filed before the said Board or Tribunal during April, May and June last ?

1719. In how many Revenue and how many Excise appeals pleaders were heard and how many Excise appeals and Revenue appeals were summarily d sposed of without hearing any pleader ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :—

1717, 1718 and 1719.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to questions Nos.983, 984 and 985 (1) and (2) asked by Maulavi Abdur Rahman at this session of the Assembly.

Imposition of tax on cattle

SRIJUT KARKA DALAY MIRI asked :—

1720. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) The tax per head for buffaloes and cows ?

(*b*) The different rates of the grazing tax imposed on the cultivators and Deswali Gowalas, who supply milk in the town ?

(*c*) The number of cattle given gratis to the poor cultivators for their family support ?

(*d*) Whether grazing tax is imposed on bullocks used for agricultural purposes ?

(*e*) The amount of the fine imposed on cattle owners in case they fail to obtain permits for their cattle ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :—

1720.—The hon. member is referred to the grazing rules published with Notification No.2912-R., dated the 25th September 1934, incorporated at page 218 of the Land Revenue Manual, which supply answers to all his questions as follows :—

(*a*)—Appendix B may be seen.
(*b*)—Rule 7(*ii*) may be seen.
(*c*) and (*d*)—Rules 4(*i*) and 4(*ii*)(*a*) may be seen.
(*e*)—Clause 4 of the notice under Appendix A may be seen.

Muhammadan grave near a Namghar at Charali Bamgaon in mauza Biswanath.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA asked : —

1721.(*a*) Is it a fact that inspite of protest from the public a কবৰখানা (Muhammadan graveyard) is going to be sanctioned by the authorities just near a Namghar at Charali Bamgaon in Mauza Biswanath ?

(*b*) If so, is it supportable from a view point of public health ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1721.(*a*)—About five or six years ago the Muhammadans had opened a cemetery near a grazing ground. As Hindus occupy houses in the vicinity, they made a protest about it to the Sub-Deputy Collector recently. On the intervention of the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, the Mahammadans agreed as a compromise not to use their burial ground but utilise for this purpose another piece of land far away from the houses : also to fence the old burial ground so that no one could trespass into it and offend their eelings.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

***Re* posting of Sub-Deputy Collectors and Extra Assistant Commissioners.**

BABU RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

1722. Will Government be pleased to state for how long Mr. David Roy, Extra Assistant Commissioner, is in Shillong as Sub-Deputy Collector and Extra Assistant Commissioner ?

1723. Is it a fact that Extra Assistant Commissioners and Sub-Deputy Collectors are not stationed in a particular place for a long period in the interest of public service ?

1724. Is there any special reason for keeping this particular officer at Shillong for a long period ?

1725. Is it a fact that he is a native of Shillong Sadar Subdivision ?

1726. Is it a fact that officers are not kept in their own subdivision on principle ?

1727. Has Government kept any other Extra Assistant Commissioner in one place for so long a period ?

1728. In view of the above do Government propose to consider the desirability of transferring him to some other place at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

1722.—For the last 17 years, with a break of nearly two years in 1925-27 and another break of four months in 1935.

1723.—This is usually the case, but administrative reasons and the public interest may necessitate exceptions.

1724.—Yes.

1725.—Yes.

1726.—Government endeavour, as far as possible, to avoid posting officers to their home subdivisions, but for administrative reasons this is not always possible.

1727.—Yes.

1728.—No.

Sylhet Government Cattle Farm

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked :

1729. Will Government please state whether it is a fact that some animals of the Sylhet Government Cattle Farm were affected by the Johne's disease ?

1730. If the answer is in the affirmative will Government please state—

(*a*) What percentage of animals were found diseased when it was first detected and what percentage are diseased now ?

(*b*) What action did Government take for complete eradication of the disease ?

(*c*) Whether Government issued any instructions ? If so, what were those instructions ?

(*d*) How many animals were destroyed after the symptoms of the disease were detected and what was the process of destruction ?

(*e*) Whether Government enquired if their instructions were followed ?

(*f*) Whether Government enquired if the recommendations of the expert Committee regarding discontinuing the practice of selling or issuing animals to outsiders were followed strictly by the managing authority of the Farm ?

1731. Is it a fact that recently some animals have been sold to outsiders ?

1732. If the answer to question No.1731 is in the affirmative what action do Government propose to take against the selling authority ?

If the answer is in the negative do Government propose to hold an enquiry about the matter ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1729.—Yes.

1730.(*a*) to (*f*)—It is difficult to give categorical replies to all these questions. In view of the large number of questions asked in this connection by several hon. members a statement stating the nature of the disease, its outbreak and the action taken by Government is laid on the Library table.

1731.—In June last the Manager of a Farm in disregard of the orders on the subject allowed 5 persons who had purchased 16 condemned animals, to remove them from the Farm on the understanding that they would be destroyed. On hearing of the matter the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock, proceeded at once to the farm and ordered the Manager to recover personally every one of the 16 animals remaining alive or to collect satisfactory evidence of their destruction. All the animals with the exception of three are reported to have been destroyed. All attempts to recover these three animals by different officers have failed.

1732.—The Director takes a serious view of the action of the Farm Manager whose written explanation has been called for.

Sylhet Government Cattle Farm

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY asked:

1733. Will Government please state (*a*) the names of the apprentices who worked in the Sylhet Cattle Farm for the last three years ?

(*b*) The period of stay at the Farm, of each apprentice ?

(*c*) Which of them have been employed ?

1734. Will Government be pleased to state whether there was a case of supersession in securing appointments by these apprentices in the Sylhet Cattle Farm ?

1735. If so, why ?

1736. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government follows the circular regarding appointment of scheduled class, tribal race and Muhammadans in preference to caste Hindus.

1737. If the answer to question No. 1736 is in the affirmative are Government aware that recently two caste Hindu apprentices have been appointed in disregard of the claims of other senior apprentices who deserved preferential treatment according to Government circular ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1733. (*a*) (*b*) & (*c*)—The *apprentice* system was abolished in 1934 and there are no *apprentices* in the Sylhet Farm. A few literate young men are at present, employed as occasion arises on daily wages.

1734 & 1735.—Do not arise.

1736.—The question is not understood. Under the general orders of Government the main communities of the province are entitled to posts in accordance with their population strength.

1737.—Government has no information on the matter. There are no apprentices in the farm.

The annual average educational grants made for the Anglo-Indian and European communities

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked:

1738. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) The annual average educational grants made for the Anglo-Indian and European communities of the province in the ten financial years ending on 31st March 1933 ?

(*b*) The total annual average of the educational grants of the province in the said ten years ?

(*c*) The total annual average number of students of the province and that of the Anglo-Indian and European communities for the same period ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1738. (*a*)—Rs. 73,200.

(*b*)—Rs. 28,98,880 including Rs.73,200 for the Anglo-Indian and European communities.

(*c*)—The total annual average number of students of the province in the ten financial years ending on 31st March 1933 was 320,262·8 which includes 353·5 of European and Anglo-Indian scholars.

Cotton College and Murarichand College

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1739. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state—

(*i*) The number of seats provided for I.A., I.Sc., B.A., B.Sc., and the Honours courses respectively in the Cotton College and the Murarichand College, with the number filled up in each course this year ?

(*ii*) The number of seats provided for similarly in the aforesaid colleges with the number filled up in each course in the year 1927-28 ?

(*iii*) The total strength of the teaching staff—professors, lecturers, demonstrators, tutors and others—in each case of the said colleges in 1927-28 and 1937-38 respectively ?

(*iv*) The total amount of recurring expenditure year by year, for the last 3 years in each of the said colleges ?

(*v*) The total amount of tuition fee received in each of the said colleges for the last 3 years ?

(*b*) (*i*) Is it a fact that there have been cases of refusal of admission in increasing numbers in recent years in the Cotton College, Gauhati ?

(*ii*) If so, is it due to insufficiency of seats provided for, or of teaching staff or of accommodation ?

(*c*) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take early steps to provide for more seats sufficient to accommodate the intending candidates and if necessary increase the staff and the accommodation ?

(*d*) (*i*) Is it a fact that admission to students in the Cotton College for the session 1937-38 was to be restricted under Government orders as notified in the *Assam Gazette* ? (*ii*) If so, who was responsible for the said orders, and, on what grounds the restriction was ordered ?

(*e*) (*i*) Is it a fact that the said order restricting admission has since been rescinded by the Government ? (*ii*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister please give reasons therefor ?

(*f*) Was similar restriction in admission ordered by the Government also in the case of the Murarichand College, Sylhet ?

(*g*) (*i*) Is it a fact that there is a fair demand for the study of the B. Com. Course amongst, the Assamese students ? (*ii*) If so, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take steps to introduce the B. Com. Course in the Cotton College, Gauhati, with effect from next year ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1739. (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*v*)—Statements are laid on the table.

(*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*)—

Class	Murarichand College				Cotton College			
	No. of seats provided for—		No. of seats filled in—		No. of seats provided for—		No. of seats filled in—	
	1927-28	1937-38	1927-28	1937-38	1927-28	1937-38	1927-28	1937-38
I. A. 1st-year ...	240	240	113	224	150	228	110	183
I. A. 2nd-year ...	240	240	74	204	150	228	125	227
B. A. 3rd-year ...	135	135	66	144	150	160	71	160
B. A. 4th-year ...	135	135	84	140	150	160	95	160
I. Sc. 1st-year ...	60	60	63	68	80	72	66	72
I. Sc. 2nd-year ...	60	60	60	69	80	72	59	71
B. Sc. 3rd-year ...	15	15	15	10	20	20	15	22
B. Sc. 4th-year ...	15	15	15	12	22	+2 22	26	19

(*iii*)—

	Murarichand College		Cotton College	
	1927-28	1937-38	1927-28	1937-38
Professors	16	13	17	13
Lecturers	9	14	8	14
Tutors	...	...	...	2

(*iv*)—

Year	Murarichand College	Cotton College
	Rs.	Rs.
1934-35	2,36,442	2,44,892
1935-36	2,25,912	2,59,051
1936-37	2,35,157	2,56,648

(*v*)—

Year	Murarichand College	Cotton College
	Rs.	Rs.
1934-35	59,819	67,151
1935-36	59,273	72,314
1936-37	57,288	73,707

(*b*) (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—To insufficiency of accommodation as well as of teaching staff.

(*c*)—Yes, if funds can be found.

(*d*) (*i*)—Yes.

(*ii*)—The late Government on account of financial stringency.

(*e*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*)—Does not arise.

(*f*)—The order was for both the Arts Colleges.

(*g*) (*i*)—Government have no information but some students from Assam read for the B. Com. degree in other Colleges ?

(*ii*)—Not from next year. There are many more urgent matters to be taken up first.

Grants of Government Aided Colleges

SRIJUT KAMESWAR DAS asked :

1740. (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education please state—

(*i*) the names of the Government Aided Colleges of the Province with the amounts and nature of their grants shown against each ; and

(*ii*) the names of colleges receiving no Government aid as yet ?

(*b*) (*i*) Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the Government are considering to sanction grant-in-aid to any of the unaided colleges of the province ?

(*ii*) If so, to which of them, to what extent and with effect from what date ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1740. (*a*) (*i*)—Lady Keane Girls' College, Shillong.

The following grants were given :—

Year	Recurring	Non-recurring
	Rs.	Rs.
1936	300 per mensem	200
1937	300 per mensem	350

In addition St. Edmund's College, Shillong, was given from last year a grant of Rs.5,000 per annum but this is payment for services rendered in connection with the opening of a B.T. Class for Assam Teachers.

(1) Jorhat College, Jorhat ;
(2) Gurucharan College, Silchar ;
(3) Brindaban College, Habiganj ;
(4) St. Anthony's College, Shillong ;
(5) St. Mary's Convent, Shillong.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*)—A sum of Rs.2,000 for grant-in-aid to private colleges has been provided in the current budget but the details of the distribution are still under the consideration of Government.

Government grant for High English and Middle English Schools in Sylhet district

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI asked :

1741. Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent by Government for High English Schools and Middle English Schools respectively in the district of Sylhet, subdivision by subdivision ?

1742. (*a*) Is Government aware that Local Bodies have stopped grants-in-aid to Middle English Schools under orders of the Divisional Commissioner ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of granting grants-in-aid to the Middle English Schools in the district ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1741.—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the amount spent by Government for High and Middle English Schools in the district of Sylhet in 1936-37

Serial No.	Name of subdivision	Expenditure on Government High Schools for boys	Expenditure on Government Aided High Schools for boys	Expenditure on Government High Schools for girls	Expenditure on Government Aided High Schools for girls	Expenditure on Government Middle English Schools for boys	Expenditure on Government Aided Middle English Schools for boys	Expenditure on Government Middle English Schools for girls	Expenditure on Government Middle English Schools for girls
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	North Sylhet	41,717	13,476	30,550	...	3,868	4,646	...	1,704
2	South Sylhet	31,760	5,192	...	...	...	780	...	1,008*
3	Habiganj	43,080	12,312	...	...	...	456	6,977	900
4	Karimganj	37,721	8,460	...	7,400	...	720	...	...
5	Sunamganj	27,255	...	...	...	...	300	...	1,200

* The school receiving this grant is in course of being raised to a High School.

1742. (*a*)—Yes, in accordance with the advice of the Commissioner.
(*b*)—Yes.

Abolition of the liquor shop of Dhamdhama in Kamrup District

SRIJUT RABI CHANDRA KACHARI asked :

1743. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether any resolution from any public meeting was presented to Government for the abolition of the liquor shop of Dhamdhama in the district of Kamrup ?

(*b*) If so, what steps have been taken by Government ?

(*c*) Why this liquor shop has been shifted from Nalbari to Dhamdhama and now again to Dhantala, an ordinary village where there are very few consumers ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1743. (*a*)—Yes, to the late Government.

(*b*)—The late Government rejected the petition.

(*c*)—The shop was not shifted from Nalbari to Dhamdhama. It was originally opened at Dhamdhama in 1932 and was moved to Dhantala in 1935 with a view to supply the drinking classes living around Nalbari.

Number of I. M. D. Military Warrant Officers (non-commissioned) in Assam

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1744. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of I. M. D. Military Warrant Officers (non-commissioned) at present in medical service in Assam ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that all or some of these officers are enjoying the rank of Civil Surgeon ?

(*c*) If so, their names and educational qualifications ?

(*d*) If it is a fact that their educational qualifications are less than Medical School qualifications ?

(*e*) If it is a fact that these officers can be easily taken back by the Central Government ?

(*f*) If it is a fact that Dr. Vardon, Assistant to the Director of Pasteur Institute, is a Military Warrant Officer ?

(*g*) If so, what pay Dr. Vardon gets and what other allowances, *viz.*, house rent, laboratory fees, etc. ?

(*h*) If there are any special reasons for Dr. Vardon's appointment to that post and for giving him the extra allowances he is getting ?

1745. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of Bachelors of Medicine of this province at present without Government employment ?

(*b*) If any of these M.Bs. can replace the I. M. D. officers in the province without loss of efficiency and with benefit to the Government exchequer ?

(*c*) If Government propose to send the I. M. D. officers back to the Central Government and employ qualified natives of the province in their places ?

1746. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If it is a fact that since April 1937 the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Indian Medical Service have been relaxed ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that no post need be reserved for the Indian Medical Service ?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take in any more Indian Medical Service officers if and when present incumbents are relieved ?

(*d*) If it is a fact that much saving of public money can be achieved by relieving the present incumbents in the Indian Medical Service within the next 2 years and engaging competent medical men on less pay on the contract basis ?

1747. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The name of the present Inspector General of Civil Hospitals ?

(*b*) If it is a fact that Lieut.-Colonel Batra once officiated as Inspector General of Civil Hospitals ?

(*c*) If so, the reasons for not giving him chance to officiate again as Inspector General of Civil Hospitals ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1744. (*a*)—Four.

(*b*)—Yes, all except one.

(*c*)—(1) Dr. G. S. Gloria, L.M. (Dub.), (2) Dr. C. F. Vieyra, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.), (3) Dr. K. E. R. Robertson, M.R.C.S., L.M.S., (Lond.)

(*d*)—No

(*e*)—Government are unable to reply to this without consulting the Central Government. The whole question of the future employment of I. M. D. Officers is now under consideration. The three I. M. D. Officers mentioned in the reply to (*c*) above are all employed in "Excluded areas" the administration of which rests under section 92 (3) of the Government of India Act with the Governor *in his discretion.*

(*f*)—Yes.

(*g*)—Pay Rs.450, special pay Rs.150 (bacteriological allowances), special pay Rs.200 (for manufacture of cholera vaccine). He also enjoys the privilege of rent-free quarters and draws such laboratory fee as is admissible under the Government of India orders under Fundamental Rule 46-A, published in the *Assam Gazette* under Notification No. 420-F.(*a*), dated the 11th February 1937.

(*h*)—The post of Military Assistant Surgeon at the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, was originally sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1914 when the Pasteur Institute was created and the post has so far been held by such officers. Dr. Vardon receives extra allowances for bacteriological work and manufacture of cholera vaccine.

1745. (*a*)—Sixty-one of whom 43 are over aged.

(*b*) and (*c*)—*See* the reply to question 1744 (*e*). As regards the post in the Pasteur Institute at present held by Dr. Vardon it has been decided that when that officer retires it will cease to be filled by an I. M. D. Officer.

1746. (*a*)—Certain changes have been introduced in the organization and distribution of the Indian Medical Service but it cannot be said that the rules have been relaxed.

(*b*)—No.

(*c*) and (*d*)—Does not arise.

1747.(*a*)—Lieut.-Colonel T. D. Murison, I.M.S., is at present officiating Inspector General of Civil Hospitals.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Lieut.-Colonel Murison is senior to Lieut-Colonel Batra.

Grazing tax and annual statement of revenue

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1748. Will Government be pleased to state—

When they introduced grazing tax, and the annual statement of the revenue since its introduction up-to-date till 1937?

1749.(*a*) Is Government aware that the price of the agricultural produce such as paddy, molasses, oilseeds, potato, etc., have gone down, due to importation of such products from outside the Province and over-flooding the local market selling at cheaper rate ?

(*b*) If so, will Government consider the desirability of taking to a scheme of restriction like those of tea to improve the production and price of the local produce to safeguard the interest of the peasantry of Assam ?

1750.(*i*) Will Government be pleased to state—whether the Auguri grazing reserve in Simalaguri mauza, Jorhat where the cattle belonging to the ryots of the neighbouring mauzas, *viz.*, Simalooguri, Teok, Lahing, Jakichuk used to graze, are going to be specially reserved for the professional graziers ?

(*ii*) If so, whether Government in view of the great hardships to innumerable cultivators of those mauzas propose to abandon the idea and allow the ryots to use the grazing land as before ?

(*iii*) Has Government received a memorial from the ryots concerned against the proposed making over of the grazing lands to the professional graziers exclusively ?

1751. (*i*) Will Government be pleased to state whether a large plot of cultivated land in the Nakakachang mauza near Gavroo Hillock are going to be included in the Government reserve thereby extending the boundary?

(*ii*) If so, do Government realise the impending danger to the large number of cultivators on or about the vicinity ?

(*iii*) What led Government to think of a project of extending the reserve and at whose initiative and for what purpose?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1748.—Grazing fees were first imposed in 1888. It is not possible to compile a statement of the annual revenue since the introduction of the tax without a disproportionate amount of labour.

1749. (*a*)—A statement has been compiled and laid on the Library table from which it will be apparent that during the last six months the prices of paddy, rice, matikalai and oilseeds have practically all risen in widely separated districts of the province. No figures are available for molasses and potato.

(*b*)—Does not arise.

1750.(*i*)—There is no village grazing reserve of Auguri. There is only a professional grazing reserve which falls in Teok and Simaluguri mauzas to serve the needs also of Jakaichuk, Lahing and Gakhirkhowa mauzas. It is proposed to add to this an area of 4,180 bighas in Teok mauza for the use of both professional graziers and village cattle.

(*ii*)—Does not arise.

(*iii*)—No : only a copy of the proceedings of a village meeting was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsa ar, recently, from which no objection appears to be raised against the already constituted professional grazing reserve. There is only a prayer that certain lands may be constituted a village grazing reserve and this matter is under enquiry.

1751.(*i*) to (*iii*)—At the instance of the Forest Department a proposal for the extension of the Tiru Hills reserve in the Nakachari mauza has been taken over under Government Notification No. 2924-R., dated the 21st August 1936—a reserve very adjacent to the Mokokchung Subdivision of the Naga Hills. Any objection from the adjacent villagers will be enquired into by the Forest Settlement Officer.

Johne's disease epidemic in Khanapara Cattle Farm

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SHARMA asked :

1752. Is it a fact that the Johne's disease epidemic prevailed in Khanapara Cattle Farm, Gauhati ? If so, when did it come to the knowledge of the authorities ?

1753. Is it a fact that many breeding bulls were shot dead ? If so, what is their value ?

1754. Will Government be pleased to state how this disease has spread amongst Assamese cattle ? Has this disease been found in other parts of the province in rural areas ?

1755. Has Government discovered or tried any other remedy before killing the infected bulls ?

1756. At whose instance were the bulls shot down and after what length of period the action was taken from the date of appearance of the disease ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1752—1756.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhuri at this session of the Assembly.

Names of Schools in each Thana of the Subdivision of Goalpara and Dhubri

MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked :

1757. Will Government please state the number of—

(*a*) Schools of all classes,
(*b*) Maktabs,
(*c*) Madrassahs,
(*d*) Lower Primary Schools,
(*e*) Middle Vernacular Schools,
(*f*) Middle English Schools,
(*g*) High English Schools,

in each thana of the subdivision of (*a*) Goalpara and (*b*) Dhubri ?

1758. Will Government please state the names of schools in which Education is imparted through the medium of Bengali and Assamese separately?

1759. Will Government please state which of the schools referred to in Question No. 1757 are maintained by Government and by Local Board separately?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD WAHEED replied:

1757(*a*) to (*g*), 1758 and 1759.—The information has been called for.

Establishment of High English School at Lakhimpur

MAULAVI MATIOR RAHMAN MIA asked:

1760. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state —

(*a*) Whether a High English School has been established by the public at Lakhimpur in the Goalpara district ?

(*b*) Whether any aid to the school has been granted by the Mechpara Wards Estate ?

(*c*) Whether Srijut Jotindra Narayan Chaudhury and Srijut Jotsna Nath Chaudhury, Zemindars of Mechpara, themselves requested the Commissioner, Assam Valley Division, to grant an aid to the school ?

(*d*) Whether Government propose to sanction any grant in aid to the school at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1760.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Government have no information.

(*c*)—Government have no information.

(*d*)—The matter will be enquired into.

Grant available from Central Government for Rural Upliftment of this Province

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI asked:

1761. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of grant that will be available yearly from the Central Government for this province for the rural upliftment ?

1762. Will Government be pleased to state the amount of Rural upliftment grant allotted to each district and each subdivision of the district separately ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied:

1761.—A grant of five lakhs was given by the Government of India in 1935-36 and another grant of five lakhs has been promised as soon as the first grant is nearly exhausted. There is no yearly grant. The amount which will be spent in any year depends upon the schemes sanctioned and completed.

1762.—A statement showing the distribution of the grant of 5 lakhs received from the Government of India in 1935-36 is laid on the table. The allotment for irrigation purposes was not distributed on a district or subdivisional basis but was utilized by the Agricultural Department.

Statement showing the amount of Rural uplift grant allotted to each subdivision and district

	Rs.	
1. Silchar	19,869	
2. Hailakandi	6,000	
3. North Cachar Hills	3,831	
Total of Cachar District	29,700	
1. North Sylhet	28,950	
2. Karimganj	26,250	
3. South Sylhet	21,950	
4. Habiganj	29,400	
5. Sunamganj	26,400	
Total of Sylhet District	1,32,950	
1. Shillong	5,000	
2. Jowai	4,000	
Total of Khasi and Jaintia Hills	9,000	
1. Kohima	3,750	
2. Mokokchung	2,500	
Total of Naga Hills	6,250	
1. Aijal	6,480	
2. Lungleh	3,920	
Total of Lushai Hills	10,400	
1. Dhubri	36,650	
2. Goalpara	16,910	
Total of Goalpara District	53,560	
1. Gauhati	49,180	
2. Barpeta	20,400	
Total of Kamrup District	69,580	
1. Tezpur	17,090	+3,441*
2. Mangaldai	11,280	
Total of Darrang District	31,811	
Nowgong District	36,740	
1. Sibsagar	17,225	
2. Jorhat	20,580	
3. Golaghat	14,140	
Total of Sibsagar District	51,945	
1. Dibrugarh	27,410	
2. North Lakhimpur	9,764	
Total of Lakhimpur District	37,174	
Garo Hills District	8,250	
Sadiya Frontier Tract	2,000	
Balipara Frontier Tract	500	
Grand Total ...	4,79,860	

*Amount allotted by the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner from the discretionary grants for the whole district. Subdivisional figures are not available.

Nowgong-Jagiroad Road

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1763. Are Government aware that the Nowgong-Jagiroad Road passes through the following mauzas, namely :—Kachamari, Hatichung, Barapjia, Charaibahi, Dandua, Tetelia, Ghagua, Gobha, and is the only outlet from the Mayang, Mikirbheta and Silpukhuri and parts of Uttarkhola, and Jagial mauzas in the district of Nowgong ?

1764. Is it a fact that the aforesaid road is one of the most important roads in the district and essential for the *raiyots* and traders of the said mauzas for the transport of agricultural products and other similar purposes ?

1765. Are Government aware that the majority of the fishery mahals and the average milk *khuties* are situated in the aforesaid mauzas, and the Mayang mauza alone having 14 fishery mahals ?

1766. Is it a fact that the most of the fish from these fisheries and the milk have to be sent out of the district for want of facilities of communications, to that part of the district where the town is situated ?

1767. Are Government aware of the fact that for lack of proper communications and quick transport facilities the agriculturists and all others do not get the proper value of their articles, and in some cases they get almost half the prices obtainable elsewhere ?

1768. Are Government aware that the damages done by the great floods of 1934 on the Nowgong-Jagiroad Road are yet left unrepaired for want of funds ?

1769. Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of recommending this road to the Road Board for taking over entire charge of it ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1763.—Yes.

1764.—Yes ; but its importance is local.

1765.—Government are aware that there are numerous fishery mahals and *khuties* in the Mayang mauza.

1766.—Government are not aware of this.

1767.—The present condition of the road does affect adversely to some extent the price of agricultural produce.

1768.—The damage done in 1934 was repaired at a cost of Rs.12,920 but the damage done in 1936 has not been repaired yet by the Local Board.

1769.—No. The road is of Local Board but not of provincial importance.

Total number of the pupils of Dawson English High School, Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1770. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of the pupils of Dawson English High School, Nowgong, on 31st Mach 1937, and the amount of monthly grant-in-aid given to it now ?

1771. Is it a fact that the general results of this school are better than many Government and aided High Schools in Assam ?

1772. Do Government consider the desirability of increasing the grant-in-aid to Dawson High School ?

1773. Will Government be pleased to state as to when the proposal to shift the Dawson High School to the Settlement Building and the Girls' High School to the Government Middle Vernacular School Buildings will be given effect to ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1770.—Three hundred and thirty-seven pupils.
Grant-in-aid, Rs. 60 a month.
1771.—No.
1772.—Yes.
1773.—Where buildings are constructed for the offices now located in the Settlement office building.

Mortality of *Pan* cultivation within the Province since the flood of 1929

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1774. Is Government aware that since the flood of 1929, a general mortality of *pan*-cultivation ending in total annihilation of the industry has overtaken the *pan*-cultivators of the district of Sylhet in particular and of other districts in general ?

1775. Is it a fact that about a lakh of people belonging to the Barujibi class among the Hindus had been thrown out of employment on account of the demolition of *pan*-cultivation ?

1776. Is it a fact that the suggestion of a preventive preparation called "Bordeaux mixture" from the Agricultural Department, Bengal, was printed and distributed in the district of Sylhet ?

1777. Has Government made an enquiry as to the result of this mixture in the affected area ?

1778. Was any Demonstrator or Inspector sent from time to time into the affected area to see the result of this preparation where it was tried ?

1779. Has the Government made any independent enquiry and research in the production and cultivation of *pan* and if so, to what result ?

1780. Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article heading "সনের চাষ ও বারুজীবি জাতি" which appeared in *Janasakti* of 2nd June of 1937.

1781. What steps, if any, Government proposes to take in the matter ?

1782. Do Government propose to hold an immediate enquiry into the grievances of *pan*-cultivations with a view to finding out immediately some solution for the revival of the industry ?

1783. Do Government propose to make some allowance to the community and help it with some subsidiary industry or profession to meet unemployment problem that had newly arisen in this community ?

1784. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of agriculture state the extent to which import and export of *pan* crop had been affected in the district of Sylhet from 1923 to 1935 and 1936 gradually ?

1785. Do Government propose to suggest remedies for revival of this cultivation ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied :

1774.—The Government is aware that there has been serious attack of disease in *pan* growing areas in various districts from time to time.

1775.—Government has no information.

1776.—Two leaflets on the subject of betel leaf disease in which the use of Bardeaux mixture was recommended were printed and distributed by the Department of Agriculture, Assam.

1777.—The beneficial effects of the Bardeaux mixture were demonstrated in several places in Habiganj, Karimganj and Maulvi Bazar subdivisions.

1778.—Yes.

1779.—The recommendation of the Department of Agriculture was made as a result of enquiry and research conducted by that Department and was not based on the work carried out in Bengal.

1780.—Yes.

1781 and 1782.—The Department of Agriculture is considering a scheme of conducting demonstrations on a wider scale in the affected areas.

1783.—If the hon. member will specify what " allowance " or " subsidiary profession " he has in mind Government will consider his suggestions.

1784.—Government has no statistics on the subject.

1785.—See replies to questions Nos. 1781 and 1782.

Post of Assistant Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN asked :

1786. Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) Whether it is a fact that the temporary vacancy in the post of Assistant Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley, was recently filled up by a lecturer in the Murarichand College ?

(2) Is it also a fact that the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction in favour of a Senior Candidate was thrown overboard by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education ?

(3) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister of Education be pleased to state the reasons for making a departure from the long standing practice of filling up such vacancy of officer of Assam School Service, and also for appointing a junior lecturer superseding the claims of senior and more experienced hands ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1786. (1)—Yes.

(2)—Government are not prepared to disclose the recommendations made to them by the Heads of Departments.

(3)—Does not arise.

Karara High English School

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1787. Is it a fact that the Karara High English School in the district of Kamrup is being run by the public for the last eight years without aid from Government ?

1788. Is it a fact that the result of the school has been uniformly good ?

1789. Do Government propose to give grant-in-aid to this school ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1787.—Yes.
1788.—Government have no information.
1789.—Yes.

Publication of the results of the Matriculation, I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc. Examinations in the *Assam Gazette*

SRIJUT JOGENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1790. Do Government propose to publish the results of the Matriculation, I.A., I.Sc., B.A. and B.Sc. Examinations of the Calcutta University in the *Assam Gazette* ?

1791. Will Government be pleased to state whether they received any representation in this matter from the Assam Chatra Sanmilani ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1790 and 1791.—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to questions Nos.760-761 asked by Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar at this session of the Assembly.

Leases in Sibsagar District

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA asked :

1792. Is it a fact that leases were issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar District, in 1930-31 for the Local Board road side lands ?

1793. Is it a fact that in view of this order about 550 annual leases were issued by the Local Board, which were signed by the Deputy Commissioner and the proceeds of the land revenue and local rate were credited towards the Golaghat Local Board Fund ?

1794. Will Government be pleased to state how long this procedure continued and what was the total income of the Board from this head since the beginning ?

1795. Is it a fact that this method of realising land revenue by the Board was in pursuance of Rule 38 of the Rules under the Assam Local Self-Government Act ?

1796. When was this procedure discontinued and why ?

1797. Is it a fact that the people occupying these road side lands under annual leases were made to vacate within 15 days' notice on penalty of fine ?

1798. Will Government be pleased to state the necessity of issuing these orders ?

1799. Did the Local Board or the Government take any steps before or after issuing these notices to ascertain the extent of damages the people would sustain in case of quitting these lands ?

1800. Will Government be pleased to state whether notices were issued to these *Pattadars* that no *pattas* would be issued to them from 1936-37 ?

1801. Is it a fact that under clause 5 of the Annual *pattas* issued, the Local Board is to pay compensation for any damage to house, crops or trees sustained by the owners ?

1802. Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the Annual *patta* in question on the table ?

1803. Will Government be pleased to state (*a*) the number of such *pattas* issued every year ?

(*b*) The number of notices issued for eviction ?

(*c*) The number of cases of forceful eviction ?

1804. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of loss or damages sustained by the *pattadars* ?

1805. Do Government propose to pay compensation to the *pattadars* ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1792.—Yes. Annual leases were issued from 1931-32.

1793.—Yes.

1794.—For five years from 1931-32 to 1935-36. The total income was Rs.1,926.

1795.—An annual lease for road side land can be granted by the Deputy Commissioner under rule 38 of the Rules under the Local Self-Government Act if such land is vested on the Board.

1796.—From April 1936 in accordance with the general orders issued by Government that rule 38 of the Rules under the Local Self-Government Act was never intended to permit the leasing of road side land other than land over which the Local Board had acquired or been legally vested with full rights.

1797.—No. Notices to vacate by the 31st March 1937 were issued on 19th February 1937.

1798.—Because the lands were being resumed by Government.

1799.—Some complaints were made and the matter is still under enquiry.

1800.—Yes.

1801.—Yes, if the land is resumed within the term of the lease.

1802.—A copy is laid on the library table.

1803. (*a*)—

1931-32	...	...	...	315
1932-33	...	...	...	363
1933-34	...	...	...	371
1934-35	...	...	...	540
1935-36	...	...	...	550

(*b*)—It is reported that 610 notices were issued.

(*c*)—Ten.

1804.—It is reported to be in the nature of Rs. 25.

1805.—No.

Number of Opium, *Ganja* and Liquor shops in the districts of Assam

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1806. Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise be pleased to state :

(*a*) The numbers of opium, *ganja*, and liquor shops in the districts of Assam (to be stated separately by each district) for the last 5 years ending March, 1937 ?

(*b*) The quantities of opium, *ganja*, and liquor sold in each district for the above mentioned period (to be stated year by year) ?

(*c*) Whether new shops (opium, *ganja*, and liquor, including Canteen) have been started or new licenses for the sale of same have been granted since 1st April, 1937 ?

(*d*) If so, where and how many and for which ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1806. (*a*) & (*b*)—A statement is laid on the table.

Districts	1932-33					
	Country spirit		Opium		*Ganja*	
	No. of shops	Consumption in L. P. G.	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	No. of shops	Consumption in seers
Cachar ...	24	6,535·5	12	426	28	775
Sylhet ...	39	9,676	10	62	67	1,169
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	3	...	5	347	1	15
Naga Hills ...	2	329	3	224	1	3
Lushai Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ...	25	5,060·5	11	29	31	536
Kamrup ...	11	6,477·0	38	870	23	504
Darrang ...	27	9,754·5	35	1,338	15	193
Nowgong ...	17	4,303·0	41	1,526	20	103
Sibsagar ...	44	42,870·0	79	4,274	35	651
Lakhimpur ...	37	63,458·5	53	4,542	21	923
Garo Hills ...	1	50·0	...	...	1	9
Sadiya Frontier Tract.	4	4,539	8	504	1	26
Balipara Frontier Tract.	...	...	1	19	...	...

Districts	1933-34					
	Country spirit		Opium		*Ganja*	
	No. of shops	Consumption in L. P. G.	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	No. of shops	Consumption in seers
Cachar ...	26	5,712·7	12	406	28	1,194
Sylhet ...	39	8,122·8	10	58	67	2,716
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	3	...	5	349	1	33
Naga Hills ...	2	338·5	3	193	1	10
Lushai Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ...	25	5,546·5	11	25	31	740
Kamrup ...	11	6,635·5	37	765	24	923
Darrang ...	29	7,458·8	35	1,144	15	314
Nowgong ...	17	3,564·5	41	1,425	20	267
Sibsagar ...	48	32,120·2	79	3,774	36	970
Lakhimpur ...	44	62,633·6	53	4,006	22	1,593
Garo Hills ...	1	58	...	...	1	23
Sadiya Frontier Tract.	4	3,310	8	468	2	52
Balipara Frontier Tract.	...	...	1	18	...	...

Districts	1934-35					
	Country spirit		Opium		*Ganja*	
	No. of shops	Consumption in L. P. G.	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	No. of shops	Consumption in seers
Cachar	30	5,381·9	13	380	28	978
Sylhet	39	8,492·5	11	57	69	2,627
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	3	...	5	485	1	30
Naga Hills ...	2	351·5	3	167	1	11
Lushai Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara... ...	28	6,747·5	11	22	32	818
Kamrup	13	6,870·4	34	708	25	1,207
Darrang	29	7,338·6	33	1,000	15	405
Nowgong... ...	17	3,876·8	41	1,458	20	393
Sibsagar	48	32,128·1	79	3,398	36	1,144
Lakhimpur ...	46	60,007·8	53	3,523	22	1,685
Garo Hills ...	1	103	...	...	1	20
Sadiya Frontier Tract.	4	3,173	8	474	2	61
Balipara Frontier Tract.	...	...	1	20	...	...

Districts	1935-36					
	Country spirit		Opium		*Ganja*	
	No. of shops	Consumption in L. P. G.	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	No. of shops	Consumption in seers
Cachar	40	14,117·9	13	345	29	1,177
Sylhet	44	14,751·5	11	56	70	2,796
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	3	...	5	451	1	38
Naga Hills ...	3	436·5	3	162	1	12
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara	28	11,042·0	11	20	32	875
Kamrup	14	11,065·0	32	654	27	1,434
Darrang	29	11,065·2	33	879	15	446
Nowgong	17	6,994·5	41	1,363	20	404
Sibsagar	49	50,021·5	80	3,250	38	1,260
Lakhimpur ...	49	85,989·9	53	3,071	22	1,598
Garo Hills... ...	1	128·5	...	...	1	21
Sadiya Frontier Tract	4	4,689·5	8	414	2	63
Balipara Frontier Tract ...	...		1	17	...	...

Districts	1936-37						No. of shops opened since April 1937		
	Country spirit		Opium		*Ganja*				
	No. of shops	Consumption in L. P. G.	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	No. of shops	Consumption in seers	Country spirit	Opium	*Ganja*
Cachar	48	16,373	13	317	33	1,272	...	...	...
Sylhet	52	20,620·5	11	48	73	3,169	2	...	2
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	3	...	5	424	1	45	...	...	...
Naga Hills ...	2	528·1	3	154	1	15	...	...	...
Lushai Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara	28	12,939·5	11	15	32	1,025	...	...	...
Kamrup	14	11,341·5	31	563	27	1,650	...	...	1
Darrang	30	13,525	32	751	17	503	...	...	2
Nowgong... ...	19	9,052·5	41	1,245	21	585	...	...	...
Sibsagar	53	49,381	78	2,954	38	1,226	2	1	3
Lakhimpur ...	49	93,728·8	51	2,660	22	1,523	...	1	...
Garo Hills ...	1	101	...	...	1	26	...	...	...
Sadiya Frontier Tract	4	4,855	8	391	3	94	...	1	...
Balipara Frontier Tract.	...	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...

(*c*)—Yes.

(*d*)—Three opium shops — at Piogaon in Sibsagar, Holowgaon in the Sadiya Frontier Tract and Jalbhari in North Lakhimpur.

Six *ganja* shops—one at Kumarikata in Kamrup, two others at Kanaighat and Badshahganj in Sylhet and three in Sibsagar at Thoramukh, Barkathoni and Barkachari.

As regards liquor shops the hon. member is referred to the reply to question 603 asked by Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua at this Session.

Kala-azar disease

SRIJUT DHIRSING DEURI asked :

1807. Is it a fact that (*a*) it was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government, that the villages Karaiguri and Oabari in the mauza of Tetelia, in the district of Nowgong, Assam, have been infected with *kala-azar* and as a result some deaths occurred in those villages and that it was prayed that a centre for *kala-azar* victims should be opened there to stop further infection, and

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the Hon'ble Minister was pleased to ask the Medical authority to depute a special Sub-Assistant Surgeon for the treatment of the *kala-azar* sufferers ?

1808.(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state :—

Whether a special Sub-Assistant Surgeon has been placed there in pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble Minister ? If so, when ? If not, why ?

(*b*) Whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that seven more deaths occurred in villages Karaiguri and Oabari since the Hon'ble Minister's last visit in the district of Nowgong ?

(*c*) How many of these victims were injected ?

(*d*) Whether it is the duty of the Gaonburah and the Mauzadar who maintained the register of births and deaths to submit timely report to the medical authority ?

(*e*) If so, whether any report was submitted by the Gaonburah or the Mauzadar with regard to the prevalence of *kala-azar* in those villages ?

(*f*) If so, what prompt and timely action was taken by the medical authority to save the *ka'a-azar* victims from death ?

(*g*) Were these villages ever visited by the Civil Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon of the district ?

1809. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are taken by the Government in the case of a village stricken with malaria but not within the reach of any dispensary ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1807.(*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes.

1808.(*a*)—Yes. An additional Sub-Assistant Surgeon is working in the Damal area from the 15th June 1937.

(*b*)—Yes, including two from *kala-azar*.

(*c*)—The two *kala-azar* cases.

(*d*)—It is the duty of the Mauzadar and Gaonbura to report the outbreak of epidemics.

(*e*)—Yes.

(*f*)—Special survey was taken up at once and cases detected were brought under treatment.

(*g*)—Yes.

1809.—In the case of a very severe outbreak special arrangements are made to distribute quinine.

Teachers of Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked:

1810. Has the Hon'ble Minister of Education received a memorial presented by the Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary School teachers serving under the Municipal and Local Boards of Assam Valley Districts ?

1811. If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he proposes to take steps to remove the manifold disadvantages and grievances of the aforesaid teachers as detailed in the memorial ?

1812. Is Government aware:—

(*a*) That there is no provision for pension or for sufficient Provident Fund for the aforesaid teachers ?

(*b*) That there is no provision for any regular increase in their pay ?

(*c*) That even in cases of illness or in domestic calamities teachers cannot get leave with any allowance ?

(*d*) That the tenure of their service is not secured ?

(*e*) That there is no standard of fixing pay according to educational qualifications or efficiency in the service to which they belong ?

(*f*) That many of the teachers do not get their pay regularly every month ?

(*g*) That most of them have to find out of his small pay the contingency expenditure of his school and very often the repair charges of the school house ?

(*h*) That many of them are required to teach a large number of pupils to the deterioration of the standard of teaching and to the deterioration of their health ?

1813. Is it a fact that the Deputy Inspector of Schools has no hand or authority in the appointment, leave, removal, or dismissal of the teachers of the Local and Municipal Boards in the Province ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1810.—Yes.

1811.—The matter is under consideration.

1812. (*a*)—Yes.

(*b*)—Yes.

(*c*)—Government understand that a few Boards grant leave with pay—the rest do not.

(*d*)—Yes.

(*e*)—Yes.

(*f*)—Yes.

(*g*)—Yes.

(*h*)—Yes.

1813.—In some cases the Boards do not accept the advice of the Deputy Inspector in these matters.

Enhancement of land Revenue in Nowgong

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA asked :

1814. Is Government aware that the graduated enhancement of rates of revenue of the town lands in Nowgong Town has been applied this year ?

1815. Is Government aware of the orders of the Local Government to the following effect in the matter of realisation of enhanced revenue of town lands in Nowgong Town :—"The Deputy Commissioner should examine the position after 4 years and if the slump in values continues should make recommendations, if necessary, for the variation of the scale of rates" ?

1816. Will Government be pleased to state if the Deputy Commissioner examined the position in the terms of the aforesaid orders ?

1817. If so, when and how the position was examined and what are the recommendations ? If not, why not ?

1818. Is Government aware that the public of Nowgong Town submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner on 8th May, 1937, complaining against the collection of revenue in enhanced rates without examination of the position and ins pite of the continuance of the slump in values contrary to the orders of Government ?

1819. If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken on the representation ?

1820. If so, what steps have been taken ? If not, why not ?

1821. Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The area of land now under special annual pattas in the district of Nowgong ?

(*b*) The area of land brought under Colonisation scheme up till now in the said district ?

(*c*) The total area of settled lands in the district ?

(*d*) The total area of lands settled with the emigrant population in the district ?

(*e*) The area of unsettled arable lands available in the plain portion of the district ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI replied :

1814.—According to the orders of this Government a graduated enhancement of rates of land revenue in town lands of Nowgong town was due to take effect from the 1st April, 1936.

1815.—Yes.

1816 and 1817.—Government have no definite information but if, as the hon. member states, the enhanced rates have only been brought into effect from 1st April 1937, it would seem that the Deputy Commissioner examined the position and postponed the enhancement by one year. It was left entirely to his discretion.

1818.—Yes.

1819 and 1820.—The Deputy Commissioner sought the advice of the Commissioner and discussed the matter with him in Nowgong. As the 3 annas remission was subsequently granted to town lands as well as agricultural lands and as the Deputy Commissioner was of opinion that the economic position was improving, he came to the conclusion that no further enquiry was necessary.

1821. (*a*)—The information is being collected.

(*b*)—Approximately 159,832 bighas.

(*c*)—708,800 acres.
(*d*)—204,078 acres.
(*e*)—The Deputy Commissioner estimated the available waste lands as 169,800 acres in area but he did not think that more than 50,000 acres of this is fit for profitable cultivation.

Goreshwar Middle English School

SRIJUT SIDDHI NATH SARMA asked:

1822. Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education aware that an application for grant-in-aid was made to the Educational authority for the Goreshwar Middle English School by its Secretary, Srijut Golapchandra Choudhury?
1823. Is it a fact that the school is situated in a backward and tribal area Betna Mauza, and that the students of the school belong to the Kachari and other allied tribes?
1824. Is it a fact that the school is being run as a venture institution for the last 4 years by subscription from the poor villagers?
1825. Is it a fact that the percentage of the educated in the backward and tribal areas is abnormally low?
1826. Do Government propose to give special attention to the education of the students of the said school?
1827. Do Government propose to give aid to the school from this year?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1822.—Yes.
1823.—Yes.
1824.—Yes.
1825.—Yes.
1826.—Government will give the same attention to the needs of this school as to those of other schools.
1827.—Yes, if funds are available.

Re **stoppage of Scholarship**

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURY asked:

1828.(*a*) Is it a fact that the scholarship of a scholar is stopped if he remains absent from school or college, as the case may be, for more than 7 days or for more than three times, on account of illness, in one academic year?
(*b*) Is it a fact that the said rule is causing great hardship?
(*c*) If so, do Government propose to withdraw that rule?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied:

1828.(*a*)—The rule on the subject which has recently been amended provides that, in the case of illness, if the scholar is absent for short periods more than three times in a year or if the absence is protracted beyond seven days a medical certificate has to be produced. On production of this certificate half the scholarship may be granted during the period of absence but the Director of Public Instruction may in exceptional cases sanction the drawal of the full amount.

(*b*)—The old rule caused hardship and that is why it was amended. Government are not aware of any hardship caused by the existing rule.

(*c*)—Not in the absence of any valid grounds.

Reservation of scholarships in Middle Vernacular, Middle English and Lower Primary Schools

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

1829. Is it a fact (*a*) that reservations of scholarships in Middle Vernacular, Middle English and Lower Primary Schools are very inadequate and offer no encouragement to the students of the scheduled castes and of the backward and tribal communities ?

(*b*) If so, do Government propose to direct the Educational Authorities and the Local Bodies to reserve separately adequate number of scholarships for the scheduled castes and backward and tribals ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1829. (*a*) and (*b*)—Government do not admit that the number of scholarships at present reserved for the backward classes is inadequate. Government will, however, consider the desirability of amending the present rules so as to allot a specific number of scholarships to the Scheduled Castes and to members of the backward tribal communities.

Girl Students of Cotton College

SRIJUT BELI RAM DAS asked :

1830. Will the Government be pleased to accommodate the girl students of the Cotton College, Gauhati, in a suitable bungalow situated near the Digholi Tank belonging to the same college ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD. WAHEED replied :

1830.—There is no immediate necessity of such accommodation and moreover no such bungalow is available.

Number of Opium Shops in Nowgong

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

1831. (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state—

The total number of opium shops in Nowgong district and the number now held by the Assamese (*i*) Hindus, (*ii*) Muhammadans, (*iii*) Tribal people, (*iv*) Scheduled Caste people, (*v*) by others ?

1832. Will Government be pleased to state (*i*) whether the ten per cent. reduction of opium in the district of Nowgong has been regularly done year by year ? (*ii*) the total quantity of opium consumed in this district for the last ten years, year by year ?

1833. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of pass-holders at present ?

1834. Is it a fact that some new passes were issued during the last five years ? (*a*) What is their number year by year ? (*b*) On what grounds these new passes were issued ? (*c*) How many passes were cancelled during these years and for what reasons ?

1835. Is it a fact that there are some shops of which the rations are below one seer ?

1836. Will Government be pleased to amalgamate these shops with other nearest shops ?

1837. Will Government be pleased to state the number of lessees that are holding same shops in Nowgong over (*i*) 10 years, (*ii*) 5 years ?

1838. Is it a fact that some of these have been transferred for the above reasons and some not ?

1839. Will Government be pleased to state why the difference is made ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

1831. (*a*)—There are 41 opium shops in Nowgong district held by the following classes of persons :—

	No of opium shops
(*i*) Hindus	11
(*ii*) Muhammadans	11
(*iii*) Tribal people	11
(*iv*) Scheduled caste people	1
Total	34
(*v*) Up-country people and Bengalis	7
Grand Total ...	41

1832. (*i*)—Yes, in the plains portion of the district.
(*ii*)—Annual issues for these years are given below :—

1927-28	4,794 seers.
1928-29	4,056 ,,
1929-30	3,851 ,,
1930-31	2,923 ,,
1931-32	2,050 ,,
1932-33	1,526 ,,
1933-34	1,425 ,,
1934-35	1,458 ,,
1935-36	1,363 ,,
1936-37	1,245 ,,

1833.—Four thousand three hundred and fifty-two on 1st April 1937.

1834. Yes. (*a*)—The information is as follows :—

1932-33	...	...	...	45
1933-34	...	...	...	142
1934-35	...	...	...	177
1935-36	...	...	...	568
1936-37	...	...	...	27

(*b*)—The passes were issued on medical certificates for preservation of health under the orders of Government.

(*c*)—The figures are given below. The cancellations were due to death, desertion, etc. :—

1932-33	...	...	...	1,417
1933-34	...	...	...	170
1934-35	...	...	...	219
1935-36	...	...	...	4,914
1936-37	...	...	...	1,121

1835 and 1836.—Yes. They will be gradually amalgamated as the rations fall.

1837. (*i*)—One.

(*ii*)—Seven.

1838 and 1839.—Some lessees holding shops at one place for too long a time were transferred to other places for administrative reasons—others of the same class will also be transferred when found necessary to do so.

Manipuri speaking People in the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division

BABU KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

1840. (*a*)—Will Government please state the population of the Manipuri speaking people in the Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division ?

(*b*) (*i*) Are there any special stipends for the Manipuri students ?

(*ii*) Is it a fact that their cases receive special attention of Government in respect of Government service ?

THE HON'BLE SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA ABU NASR MD WAHEED replied :

1840. (*a*)—85,180

(*b*) (*i*)—The hon. member is referred to rules 5 and 21 as corrected up to date at pages 269 and 273 of the Assam Education Department Rules and Orders.

(*ii*)—No.

Model Cattle Farms at Khanapara and Sylhet

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked:

1841. (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Live-Stock Department aware of the view that is held that the Model Cattle Farms at Khanapara and Sylhet have been responsible for importing Johne's disease into this province ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that practically all the cattle in the Khanapara and Sylhet Cattle Farms have been infected by Johne's disease ?

(*c*) Is it also true that bulls bred in these farms have spread the disease wherever they have been lent ?

(*d*) If the answer is in the affirmative do Government propose to close the farms forthwith ?

(*e*) Do Government propose to abolish all the posts connected with the maintenance of these farms ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI MD. ALI HAIDAR KHAN replied:

1841. (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*)—The hon. member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Choudhury at this session of the Assembly.

(*d*)—No.

(*e*)—No.

Criticisms of the action of the Hon'ble Speaker by the Press

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, may I bring to your notice as well as to the notice of this Hon'ble House some portion of a newspaper criticising your action as Speaker ? The name of the paper is "Patriva" dated Saturday, 5th *Bhadro*, 21st August 1937. It runs thus:—

সভাপতিৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য। অসম ব্যৱস্থাপক সভাৰ সভাপতি মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত বসন্ত কুমাৰ দাসে সভাপতিৰ কাম অতি শৃঙ্খলা ভাবে সমাপন কৰা বুলি আমাৰ বিশ্বাস হোৱা নাই। মৌলবী মনোৱাৰ আলি ডাঙৰীয়াই নিজে উপস্থিত থাকি মিঃ মতিন চৌধুৰীৰ প্ৰস্তাবটি উত্থাপন কৰিব দিয়া বিষয়ত সভাপতিৰ দোধোৰ মোধোৰ অৱস্থা আৰু যেতিয়া সভাপতিয়ে মৌলবী মনোৱাৰ আলি চাহাবক প্ৰস্তাবটি উত্থাপন কৰিব কলে কিন্তু তেওঁ প্ৰস্তাব উত্থাপন নকৰি বাহিৰলৈ ওলাই গল তেতিয়া সভাপতিয়ে প্ৰস্তাবটি বদ হৈছে বুলি ঘোষণা নকৰি তেখেতক মাতিব পঠোৱা ইত্যাদি কথাই মাননীয় সভাপতি দেৱৰ শুশৃঙ্খলতা ৰক্ষা কৰা বিষয়ত অলপ ত্ৰুটি হোৱা যেন আমাৰ বোধ হয়। সভাৰ নিয়ম কাৰণ বিষয়তো মাননীয় সভাপতিয়ে বহু চাই চিন্তি কৰিব লগীয়া হোৱাত তেখেতে সভাৰ নিয়ম বিলাক ভালদৰে অনুসন্ধ কৰিব পাৰিছে বুলি আমাৰ বোধ হোৱা নাই। কোনো বিষয়ত ভোট লব লগা হলে সভ্য সকলে নিজ স্থান পৰিত্যাগ কৰি কেন্তাচিং নহলেও সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়াৰ আগতে হলৰ ভিতৰত ইফালে সিফালে অহা যোৱা কৰিব দিয়া আৰু সভাপতিৰ

আগতে সভ্যসকলে টনাটনি কৰা দেখিলে এচেন্নি হলতো আমাৰ গাৱৰ সভা সমিতিৰ নিচিনা শৃঙ্খলা নোহোৱা যেন হে বোধ হয়। সভাপতি দেৱৰ কাৰ্য্য কুশলতাত আমাৰ যথেষ্ট আস্থা আছে। তেখেতে অলপ দৃঢ় ভাবে ন্যায় প্রতিষ্ঠাৰ নিমিত্তে চলিলেহে ৰাজহাপক সভাৰ সভাপতিৰ আসনৰ গৌৰৱ বঢ়াব পাৰিব বুলি আমাৰ বিশ্বাস।

I know, Sir, that today is the heaviest day of our session and I do not like to take much of your time and the time of the House. Sir, you are the custodian of the prestige and dignity of this House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Will the hon. member be able to give me a translation of this in English, because I have not been able to follow all ?

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I can give the purport, Sir.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: I have gone through it and I can give the translation.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Yes, please.

MAULAVI MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHOUDHURY: I am subject to correction. It is as follows:—

"SPEAKER'S DUTY

"We little believe that the Hon'ble Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Babu Basanta Kumar Das, has performed his functions very smoothly.

For instance it may be cited as follows:—

Hon. Maulavi Munawwar Ali being himself present, asked Mr. Matin Chaudhury to put forward the resolution. In this connection Hon. Speaker's uneasiness was felt by the House and also when the Hon. Speaker asked Maulavi Munawwar Ali to place his resolution before the House, the latter silently went out of the Chamber. The Hon. Speaker did not then declare his resolution to be treated as cancelled. On the other hand the Hon. Speaker told the House, he had been sent for, etc.

Regarding the procedure of the business of the Assembly, we also doubt whether he has been able to understand the rules regarding the conduct of the meetings.

Relating to the matter leading to division, it is seen that the hon. members though they do not canvas, leave their respective places, move hither and thither and drag themselves each other even before the Hon'ble Speaker within the four walls of the Chamber, like the unparliamentary village meetings.

We do not deny that the Hon'ble Speaker has no competency, but what we want to say is that he should be strict in conducting the proceedings of the meetings in conformity to the rules and in doing so, we hope that he will be able to command more respect as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly."

First of all, Sir, I am subject to correction as I am not quite conversant with Assamese language, though I can understand Assamese and can speak in Assamese. The first thing which I take serious objection to is "we also doubt whether he has been able to understand the rules regarding the conduct of the meetings." Then the other thing is that the meetings of this hon'ble House are no better than "unparliamentary village meetings." Sir, you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House and I think if anything repugnant happens in this House, it is for the hon. members to bring it to your knowledge. I do not think anybody has the right to criticise your action. The editor of this paper has questioned your impartiality,

your ability and your sense of duty. I wonder how he could have the audacity to say like this and call the meetings of this House "unparliamentary village meetings" (*A voice*—shame). While at the time of division some members moved from this place to that place, you rebuked them, and this fact found publicity in Calcutta newspapers. You did not even spare some of the Hon'ble Ministers. On the face of it, the paper is wrong to remark like this. It has encroached upon the rights and privileges of the House. I do not know if that paper has got any reporter in the Gallery of this House under your subordinate jurisdiction.

On a similar occasion, in 1928, perhaps on the 14th September, the late lamented Pundit Motilal Nehru brought to the notice of late President Mr. Patel of revered memory that some papers violated the rights and privileges of the House, I mean, the Central Assembly. The then Leader of the House, Hon. Mr. J. Crerar joined with Panditji and said that the Government Bench were at one with him. I whole-heartedly joined with Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee in this matter. I hope the Hon'ble Leader of the House will join with us. I simply draw the attention of the House to this and leave the matter at the hands of the hon. members of the House as well as at the hands of the Chair.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I associate myself with all that has been spoken about the conduct of this paper *Prativa* as regards the reflection that has been cast on the conduct of the Chair. But there is another matter about which also I desire to draw your attention and that is in reference to a statement that has been published in the *Statesman* of the 16th August from the correspondent of Shillong. There, Sir, it was reported that you allowed all other languages to be used in the Assembly except Assamese. That statement again found expression from the correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* from Jorhat and it appeared in the edition of the *Patrika* of the 25th. This is a positive untruth and it was circulated by those papers. I consider this to be a very serious matter. Representatives of these papers are given privilege to sit here and even to hear what debates are going on in this House, and references of this nature really appear to me to be wilful perversions and mis-representations which should not be allowed to go unchallenged. Sir you have allowed not merely Assamese to be spoken here by at least 5 hon. members but you have allowed Assamese to be spoken by those who can speak some English as well. We consider these statements really very mischievous and I think they also cast reflection on the dignity and the impartiality of the Chair and therefore these statements also should be severely condemned by this House.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I speak for the information of the House that the statement which appeared on the 16th August in the *Statesman* of Calcutta was subsequently contradicted and the contradiction also appeared in the *Statesman*. It was contradicted probably on the 26th of August in the *Statesman*.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Was it after the article of the Jorhat correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* ?

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: Yes, Sir. That statement was also adversely commented upon by the editor of the *Batori*. But the representative of the *Statesman* has contradicted it and the contradiction has found a prominent place in the *Statesman*. It was contradicted by the *Patrika* also.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: When was this contradiction ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I might inform the House that the correspondent of the *Statesman* saw me in my room—it was yesterday—and he told me these things were published through inadvertence and he also told me that he had published a contradiction.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT: Was no regret expressed ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: From the tone of conversation I found that he was penitent.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am in entire agreement with what has been said by the previous speakers. But I must bring to the notice of hon. members that *Janasakti* gave a perverted account of what I spoke at the last session. I hope while taking action you will direct that paper to be more cautious about the speeches made in this House.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we fully agree with what has been said about the *Prativa*. The paper deserves severe condemnation, and we are definitely of opinion that the aspersions cast upon you, Sir, are deliberate. The *Prativa* has gone so far as to question your ability to understand the procedure—I mean Parliamentary procedure (*shame*). That is nothing but mere audacity. You have shown beyond the shadow of doubt your exquisite ability when you delivered your memorable ruling on the point of order raised by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister for which the service of the learned Advocate General had to be requisitioned from Calcutta.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member should not refer to my capacity, etc.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: We want to show that the aspersions were deliberate and that these were mischievous.

I should not like to prolong my speech but would record our utmost indignation at the aspersions cast upon you, Sir, as the Hon'ble Speaker of this House.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Sir, we all deprecate the reflections which have been cast upon the Chair. I can assure you, you have our entire confidence.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, we on the Government Bench yield to none in our respect for the dignity of the Chair and we will be the first persons to bring to your notice anything that reflects upon your conduct while giving your decision in the House or while conducting the deliberations of the House. If we are to go by the writings, or comments of the newspapers then we will not be able to carry on with our work at all on the floor of this House. We will stoutly protest if there is any reflection on the performance of the duty of the Chair by any particular paper. Sir, the paper 'Prativa' says that it has great confidence in you but at the same time it says that it will be much better if there is some strictness in the House. Sir, the writer has not gone beyond the proceedings of this House itself. During this session of the Assembly, you were compelled to call members to orders on various days. One day you had to go so far as to say that if the members behave in this way, it will be no better than a village debating club. Sir, if we are to take notice of what the paper writes, then I think, we will not be able to go on with our work. For example though the personnel of the proposed Committee to inquire into the line system have not yet been appointed but still the paper

'Assamiya' of 28th August has written under a very bold heading :—

কমিটিৰ ৮ জনৰ ভিতৰত তিনি জন চকৰা, দুজন ইউৰোপীয়ান আৰু এজন পৰ্ব্বতীয়া

দি অসমীয়া জাতিক ধ্বংশ কৰাৰ ব্যবস্থা। শ্রীযুত গোহিনী চৌধুৰীয়ে ইয়াত সম্মতি দিছে।

I think, it will not be far out of the mark, if I characterise this statement as a deliberate lie and malicious piece of propaganda.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Is he in order, Sir? We are now discussing some other thing.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am just developing my points. I say that if hon. members have to take notice of such writings in the papers, there will be no day when we cannot bring such matter to your notice. Therefore my submission before the House is that we should ignore such writings in the papers with deserved contempt.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I am glad that all sections of this House should have taken the opportunity of expressing their confidence in you. I should have been very glad if the Hon'ble Chief Minister in expressing confidence of the Ministry in you would have refrained from making a spacious *apologia* on behalf of the offending newspaper. This, Sir, is a matter of vital concern to every section of the House and we are all of us whether officials or non-officials equally interested in maintaining the dignity and status of the Chair. I think, Sir, in any action that you want to take in this matter, you ought to have the whole-hearted support of this entire Assembly.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There is another paper, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I shall ask the hon. member not to refer to any other paper just now.

I am much obliged to the hon. members for bringing to my notice these publications in the newspapers mentioned. The first paper that was mentioned by my hon. friend Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee is 'Prativa' and he read out the article and from the English translation which has been placed before the House by hon. Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Choudhury, what I gather, is that the conclusions of the writer are based really on a perverted version of the proceedings in connection with the resolution on the 'Line System'. Now perhaps all the hon. members know what really happened. The paper has said that it was through lack of knowledge about the rule that Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury was called upon to move the resolution. The facts, as the proceedings would show, were that Maulavi Munawwar Ali submitted a letter to the Secretary authorising Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury to move that resolution, and that when that letter was handed over to me, I naturally thought that Maulavi Munawwar Ali was not in the House and, therefore, I called upon Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury to move the resolution, but that when it was pointed out to me that Maulavi Munawwar Ali was in the House, I at once called upon him to move that resolution. Of course he slipped away from the House and at once I pointed out to the House that it was not proper for him to leave the Hall when he was called upon to move the resolution and that it was certainly disrespectful to the House. I quite remember that after I had spoken in that way Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed rose up and drew my attention to the fact that it was not his intention to show disrespect to the House, but he left the Hall under a misapprehension. Then I told the House that if it was so, he might be communicated to and he might come in and move the resolution. He then entered the

Hall and I at once told him that it was not proper for him to leave the House and that I should have thrown out the resolution but that as that was a very important resolution I was going to show him the concession of allowing him to move the resolution. And it was then that hon. Maulavi Munawwar Ali moved the resolution. These are the facts but what has been reported by the paper ? The paper has given a version which I hope the hon. members will perceive is a clear perversion of facts when it states that the Hon'ble Speaker was not well acquainted with the rules and that he, therefore, allowed the resolution to be moved. This is certainly an unwarranted generalisation and the hon. members are quite justified in saying that this was a gross violation of the privilege of this House. We are giving ample latitude to the representatives of the various newspapers and if they avail of the opportunity that we give them to publish inaccurate reports or perverted versions of the proceedings of the House, then this House will be quite justified to take such steps against them as would put a stop to the publication of inaccurate or perverted version of its proceedings. Now as has been pointed out to me this ' Prativa ' was also guilty of breach of the privilege of the House by characterising this Assembly meeting as a meeting of Village Parliament and certainly the House was quite justified to take exception to that. Then with regard to the news that was published in the " Statesman " to the effect that Assamese has not been allowed to be one of the languages of the Assembly it may be that such publication was due to inadvertence, but the correspondent did not take the earliest opportunity to rectify that mistake and the result was that it has led to an agitation in the country as would appear from the letter published in the " Amritabazar Patrika " from its Jorhat correspondent it its issue of the 25th August. Here also by publishing this letter the " Amritabazar Patrika " may be considered to be guilty of breach of the privilege of the House, and it may be unwittingly. In that letter it has been said that the Bengali President has disallowed the Assamese language which is clearly an imputation against the impartiality of the Chair. I have seen that letter. The intention of the correpondent was clearly to hold before the public that the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly has got a bias against the Assamese people and that prompted by that bias he gave a ruling disallowing Assamese language to be used in the Assembly. It was certainly the duty of the " Amritabazar Patrika " to see whether the letter was based upon correct and accurate report, because the report of Assamese language having been excluded by the Speaker of this Assembly would strike any body as very extraoridinary and naturally would give rise to suspicion about its accuarcy and if any enquiry was made the " Amritabazar Patrika " would have realised that the letter which cast reflection against the Chair should not be published. Hon. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee was going to draw my attention to another newspaper, which is similarly guilty.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: There is also another *Patrika* called ' Deka '.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: If there be such writings, if there be such comments against the impartiality of the Chair, certainly all these would constitute breaches of the privilege of the House. Perhaps the hon. members know what is the rule with regard to similar matters which is observed in the mother of Parliaments. Breaches of the privilege of the Parliament are punishable by law in the United Kingdom.

There are also several other ways in which action against breaches of the privilege of Parliament are severely dealt with, but the Legislatures in India have not got that power. This is really a question which is agitating the minds of all the Speakers and Presidents of the Legislatures, as to what

can be done to prevent such contempt of the Legislatures, and I think some way may be found out. But before this is done we must find out a way for protecting the privileges of the House against such breaches. Of course we cannot reach all the newspapers of the country who publish matters like these, but there are certain papers who send their representatives to report the proceedings of the House, and we can certainly reach them. And when the hon. members are keen to maintain the dignity of the House, then the power that has been given to me would be quite sufficient to take disciplinary action against those newspapers, who are guilty of such conduct.

There has been a reference to what the President Patel of hallowed memory did when similar conduct on the part of two leading newspapers, *viz.*, the *Times of India* and the *Daily Telegraph*, was brought to his notice, and I need not remind the House about the procedure he adopted. Certainly it is open to me to adopt that procedure in order to maintain the dignity of the House.

The Hon'ble Leader of the House has said that if we take notice of such writings there would be no end of it ; certainly this is so. He has also said that public men are not free from criticisms ; that is also quite true. But the Speaker is looked upon differently. He is not a public man in the sense a Minister or a member of the House is — he is the custodian of the privileges and the dignity of the House (*hear, hear*), and when charges of partiality are brought against him, it is considered to be a breach of the privileges of the House, and the powers that have been given to the Speaker would certainly enable him to put an end to all these (*hear, hear*).

Of course we are naturally indulgent to newspapers ; they do serve a very useful purpose in the country, and therefore we have given them all possible opportunities for reporting the proceedings of the House for their duly publicity in the newspapers. Nevertheless this Hon'ble House cannot surrender its honour to them (*hear, hear*). Therefore I am glad to see that this Hon'ble House has taken the right view about the writings in the press referred to and that the high sense of dignity has prompted them to bring this matter to my notice.

As the hon. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt pointed out, it was up to the *Statesman* to make amends for publishing inaccurate report which has led to such a consequence. The reporter of the *Statesmen*, as I have already told the House appeared before me and said it was due to inadvertence, that undoubtedly is not sufficient and Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Dutt is right in urging for suitable amends. I again thank the hon. members of this Hon'ble House for having drawn my attention to all these and I need hardly tell the hon. members that if I am found deficient in any matter, this House can set me right ; it is not the business of the newspapers to criticise the conduct of the Speaker, and to say that the Speaker is deficient in this matter or that or cast reflection on him (*hear, hear*). The House will judge it, and if the House thinks that the Speaker is thoroughly deficient, there is a remedy for the House to adopt (*Great applause*).

Hon'ble Speaker's ruling re: Procedure as to questions and answers put on members' tables but not called out

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Before I proceed to the next item of business, I am going to make a statement with regard to the matter which the hon. Maulavi Munawwarali mentioned during the question time. This is the last day of Session, and I think this statement will be useful to the hon. members.

The total number of unstarred questions admitted up to 16th August 1937 (*i. e.*, the last day of the 15 clear days' limit) roughly comes to 2,356, excluding of course the sub-questions. Replies have been laid on the table up to date to 1,841 questions and the number actually called out up-to-date is 608, *i. e.*, we are still going on with the list laid on the table on the 14th August.

It will therefore be seen that the House could not even take up one-third of the number of unstarred questions to which replies have already been laid on the table. The number of starred questions admitted up to 16th August 1937 roughly comes to 524 and replies to 317 questions have been laid on the table and called out in the House. Nine short notice questions were admitted and all have been answered.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My short notice question has not been answered, Sir.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI:—I have not got reply to my short notice question, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I do not know whether consent of the Ministers in charge has been given to them. Unless consent is given they cannot be asked on the floor of the House.

Five hundred and nine resolutions were admitted to the first ballot held 21 days before the 1st day of the Session and out of these only 3 resolutions were actually discussed in the House.

As many as 53 unstarred and 21 starred questions were received after the 15 days' limit and were disallowed and 169 resolutions were received and disallowed after the 21 days' limit.

It will be seen therefore that it was not practicable for the members to take up so many questions and resolutions for discussion within so short a time. I hope hon. members will take this aspect of the situation into consideration when sending notices of questions and resolutions for future Sessions.

I suggest that the remaining unstarred questions and answers which were laid on the table up-to-date but which could not be called out for want of time may be included in the proceedings of to-day under the heading:—

"Unstarred questions and answers laid on members' tables on the dates noted against each but not called out".

Resolutions not taken up by the House will of course lapse.

I hope this will satisfy hon. Maulavi Munawwarali. Even the answers to unstarred questions, to which supplementary questions could not be put, will also be published as questions, which have been answered.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: What will be the effect of it, Sir? Will these be taken as proceedings of the House?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Certainly; the rule with regard to unstarred questions is that answers are to be printed and laid on the table of the House, and they are taken up again on the floor of the House for supplementary questions. Therefore, the questions are taken from day to day in order to allow hon. members to put supplementaries.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: What about starred questions, Sir?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: They will lapse.

Priority of questions in answering them

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: May I know, Sir, how the answers to the questions are given—whether any priority is given according to the date of submission of the questions?

I understand I put some questions during the first part of June. I also understand that the answers have been obtained but even now they have not been given on the floor of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The procedure is this. When the questions are sent by the members, they are first examined and admitted by the Speaker. Then the copies of the admitted questions are sent to the departments concerned, and they send the answers to the questions according to their own choice. No priority is given to any questions according to the date of their submission.

The hon. member will please realise that it is not always easy for the Government to straightway answer all the questions; they have to consult several other sources to get the answers. So the priority of the answers to questions according to the date of submission cannot be observed in this matter.

Conciliation Board to enquire into the strike in the Dhubri Match Factory

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the Board has been constituted for enquiring into the grievances of the Dhubri Match Factory ?

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I have not been able to announce the names of the members of the Conciliation Board because I am waiting for suggestions from the leader of the Congress Party. I hope I shall be able to announce them at about 2 o'clock, if I secure his suggestions before then.

Transfer of the Executive Engineer's office from Golaghat to Jorhat

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Sir, I sent in some short notice questions about the transfer of the Executive Engineer's Office from Golaghat to Jorhat, but I have got no reply to them as yet. I have got a representation from the people of Golaghat against such transfer. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister when I may get a reply ?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : May I inform the hon. member that the Jorhat people want it ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Every question which is said to be a short-notice question cannot be taken as a short-notice question. The hon. member's question was not taken as a short-notice question and therefore no answer can be forthcoming now, and there is no use asking the Hon'ble Minister for a reply now.

Notifications under the Assam Municipal Act

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the *Notification No.2602-L.S.-G., dated the 28th July 1937 under Section 296(3) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923. The Notification is laid on the table.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of information. Yesterday I tabled a censure motion to criticise the Hon'ble the Minister of Local Self-Government, for not placing the proposals for creation and distribution of wards of the Dibrugarh Municipality but owing to reasons known to the hon. members of this House I lost the opportunity of moving my motion. Curiously enough I find the notification included in the congested programme to-day. I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government whether this Notification is meant only for our information or whether we shall have an opportunity of criticising it and putting in our amendments ?

*Appendix B

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: The Notification answers for itself. It is already stated there.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: It does not. I want to know whether we will be able to amend it ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Certainly, the hon. member has every right to put in amendments. If he will send in resolutions with a view to alter any portion of the Notifications I will admit them.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: When may I table these amendments ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: At the next session.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Is it not a fact that the Dibrugarh Municipal election will be held very soon ? And if so, when ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes, it is for the District Magistrate to fix the date of the election.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: If the elections are going to be held very shortly may I be allowed to table my amendments now ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There is no procedure under which you can table motions just now.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Cannot the elections be postponed ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY: No, Sir.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: Was any representation approving of the redistribution of wards received from the rate-payers of the Dibrugarh Municipality ?

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Yes we have fully considered the representations and have arrived at a conclusion.

SRIJUT LAKHESVAR BAROOAH: Then we are debarred from putting any amendments ? I am sorry that the Hon'ble Minister has stifled discussion of a matter over which there is two sharply divided opinions in the locality.

The HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: How can I help the hon. member ? In this matter hon. members are to devise their own remedy.

(*A Voice*: We did not know about this until we came to this House this morning).

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: This Notification was published over three months ago, in the month of May, calling for objections from all over the country. After the objections were received the Government considered them and this is the final publication. Many people from Dibrugarh have accepted the final distribution of the wards. The Notification has been only laid on the table according to Section 296(3) of the Municipal Act.

The Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move clause 2 of the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, "there shall be paid to the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly a salary of Rs.1,000 per mensem".

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are two amendments, one in the name of Maulavi Abdul Aziz, and the other in the name of Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: I do not propose to move the amendment Standing in my name, in view of the declaration made by the Hon'ble Speaker during the last session.

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move as an amendment to the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, clause 2 that "there shall be paid to the Speaker a salary of Rs.500 and a car and house allowance of Rs.250 per mensem."

I have nothing to add in support of my arguments. I have tabled the amendment in terms of Resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee held at Wardha, and we have the fortune to have a member from the Congress benches as the Speaker in this Assembly, who announced in the last session of the Assembly that he would be guided by the Rules of the Congress Working Committee with regard to pay, and I do not think the Government will oppose the amendment.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: On a point of Order, Sir, this is a Salary Bill and it is not a bill for allowances and all these things. So, I think the hon. mover is not in order and I want a ruling on this point, Sir.

RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DATTA: I think, Sir, the House will remember one thing. We are going to fix the salary of the Speaker. You may not be the Speaker all these years and it would not be quite fair to another man if he does come to your place to fix it so low.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That is on the merits of the clause. But a point of order has now been raised. I think there is nothing irregular in making a provision that in addition to the salary the Speaker will get an allowance. Although the Bill is styled the Speaker's Salary Bill, there is nothing irregular in bringing such an amendment as has been moved in order to give to the Speaker something additional. As to what Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Datta has said, I quite agree with him in what he has said but there is a remedy for the contingency he contemplates.

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDALOI: With reference to the objections that have been raised by the Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Datta, I think Sir, that while the amount of salary that is paid to the Ministers is a charge on the revenue it is not so in the case of the Speaker. I therefore think that any amendment can be brought to the Speaker's Salary Act as an amendment to the salary decided upon now. Therefore, I think, there is nothing irregular or inconvenient for the House in adopting this amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I would like to make the position of the Government clear. As I have already mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, Government thinks that the post of the Speaker who is the custodian of the rights of the House ought to carry a fair salary and that salary according to the previous standards has been a thousand rupees Government stick to that amount even now.

If my hon. friends want to give a car and house allowance of Rs.250, all I need say is that if the House support the Government proposal there will be money enough for the Speaker to draw, from the thousand rupees.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Before the discussion proceeds further, I want to make one thing clear. Although this Salary Bill proposes to fix the salary of the Speaker for all time to come. Yet when discussions would be going on the hon. members may feel embarrassed on account of my presence here. Therefore, I feel that it would be proper for me to leave the Chair and ask the Deputy Speaker to preside when this Bill is under consideration.

The Hon'ble Speaker then vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker then occupied it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: An amendment to the Assam Speaker's Bill has been moved to the effect that the Speaker should get a salary of Rs. 500 and a car and house allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem. If the amendment is required to be discussed at length any hon. members are at full liberty to discuss it now.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a thousand rupees a month for the Hon'ble Speaker is quite justified in my opinion. Because the cadres of service and the scales of pay are fixed not in accordance with the requirements or needs of a particular incumbent but they are fixed according to the dignity and position and occupation. As it was expressed by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House, the position of the Hon'ble Speaker, is very high and dignified and very big at the same time. Some people may say that the Speaker has only a short period of days of work during the year. But I do not consider so. Because he has to receive questions and resolutions from time to time throughout the year round. He has to deal with these matters. So he is to be considered as full time incumbent. For this reason I support the Government Bill.

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government Bill proposes one thousand rupees as salary of the Speaker. As against that an amendment has been moved by a member of the Congress party for giving the Speaker a salary of Rs.500 and an allowance of Rs.250. I think if the Government bill is passed there is nothing to prevent the Hon'ble Speaker from drawing Rs.500 as pay and Rs. 250 as allowance. He has shown great sacrifice in accepting Rs. 500 and I think he is allowed by the Working Committee to draw Rs.250 more as allowance. He is entitled to draw that if it is available to him from the provision of his salary of Rs.1,000. Having that view in mind, I support the Government measure.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I want to know if we accept the amendment brought by the Member of the Congress Party will that be binding for all time to come ? I want to know whether the allowance will be paid in addition to Rs.1,000 proposed in the Government Bill.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I could not quite follow the hon. member as to what his point is. All I need say is that if we settle by the present Bill and fix the salary and allowance of the Speaker, that will hold good till it is amended by another Bill or an Act.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are at one with the hon. Mr. Matin Chaudhury when he says that if the Speaker's salary is fixed at one thousand rupees there will be no bar for the Hon'ble Speaker to drawing Rs.500 plus Rs.250, that is to say Rs.750 which is allowed by the Congress Working Committee. Sir, we have decided to support the Government bill and our reasons are these. We are going to fix the salary of the Speaker of this House. The Speaker, or the President of the previous House, drew a salary of Rs.1,000 per mensem since the year 1921. At that time the House was composed of 39 elected members. Now the House has 108 elected members and the Speaker's duties and work have been raised to that extent proportionately, and perhaps, more. Sir, if you were to judge the salary by the amount of work that the Speaker has to do, you would have rather to raise than lower it. But, Sir, with reference to the resources of the province and because we are of opinion that the salary should not always provide criterion for the amount of work done, particularly when we have provincial autonomy, we are not going to curtail the figure of Rs.1,000 Therefore, Sir, we wholeheartedly support the figure of Rs.1,000.

The House at this stage was adjourned till 2 p.m. for lunch.

(After lunch)

Strike in the Commercial Carrying Company, Limited

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: On a point of information I understand that about 60 workers of the workshop department of the Commercial Carrying Company have gone on strike from today and there is apprehension of consequent dislocation of traffic on the Shillong-Gauhati Road. I want to know whether the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been informed of this?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: No, Sir, this is the first time that I have heard of it from the hon. member.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA: I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister will see that there be no dislocation of traffic and that the strike ends.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Yes, I shall see to that.

I have got another report from the hon. members of the other valley that something is wrong in the Shillong-Sylhet Road also. That also, will be attended to.

The Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937—*(contd.)*

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Today we have got the Speaker's salary Bill before the House. We are going to fix the salary of the Speaker of this Legislative Assembly. It is not that we are going to fix the salary of any individual person belonging to any creed, class or community.

Since 1921 Assam has been paying Rs.1,000 a month to the President of the then Legislative Council. Most probably during that term only for 2 years the House reduced the salary of the President to Rs.500 a month. This time, Sir, you know that the Speaker's duties with the increase in the number of the members of the Legislature has increased a great deal and in view of the increase in the duties I myself was inclined to give, if possible, a greater salary to the Speaker. But, Sir, hon. members of this House know that our resource at present is very meagre. In this view of the matter I hope the House will agree that we should provide Rs.1,000 a month to our Speaker and I hope the House will accept the Government Bill.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Sir, I entirely agree with what my hon. friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury has said. With the increase in the number of members and increase in the volume of work, the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker has undoubtedly increased and he can quite rightly claim more salary than what was awarded to the President of the previous Council. But the Hon'ble Speaker for whom this salary Bill is meant is agreeable to take Rs.500 as his salary per month and Rs.250 as his house allowance. At the same time, Sir, the Government as well as the hon. members will have ample opportunity at any time to alter or add to this salary if another Speaker comes to his place. When there is no bar to the Government to add to or alter this salary at any time, I do not see what is the harm on our part in accepting the amendment which suggests a salary which has been accepted by the Hon'ble Speaker who is now occupying the Chair. With these few words I beg to support the amendment of my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I rise to oppose the amendment moved by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. The Government is proposing to give a salary of Rs.1,000 to the Speaker, but the Hon'ble speaker is willing to accept only Rs.500 per month. If that is so, I think no more sum should be paid indirectly. The Hon'ble Speaker is at full liberty to

draw Rs. 1,000. An allowance should always be proportionate to the salary drawn by one. An allowance of Rs.250 to a salary of Rs.500 is simply an eyewash to draw a high salary. I think a sacrifice of Rs.500 is not very much as I understand that Hon'ble Speaker has got the permission to practice in the court. (A voice No ; that question does not arise). I do not know what is the fact. I must say that the Hon'ble President of the last Council did sacrifice a very lucrative practice at the bar. If the Hon'ble Speaker cannot manage with Rs. 500 he may very well draw Rs. 750 per month. Let us be frank about the situation and let there be no hide and seek.

BABU HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I had no mind to speak anything on this matter ; but the remarks made by my hon. friend Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta has prompted me to speak some words. He was saying that the amount of the allowance of Rs. 250 was an eye-wash and that it was meant only to draw a bigger amount of salary. The amendment comes from the Congress Party and the Speaker has no knowledge of it. Is it fair, Sir, is it desirable, Sir, to drag in the Speaker in the debate and cast reflection on him and say that the matter of allowance is an eye-wash? The Government is proposing a salary of Rs.1,000, and if our Speaker has accepted a lesser sum willingly, the House ought to be grateful to him.

Well, Sir, I do not know whether he is going to get thousand rupees or Rs.750 ; but I may inform the House that by accepting this post, our Speaker has sacrificed much. He had an enormous practice at the Bar which would excite envy of any lawyer-member of this House. Sir, I do not know whether the original Bill of Rs.1,000 will be passed or whether our amendment of Rs.750 will be carried. And I do not know whether the Speaker will accept Rs.500 or Rs.750. It is absolutely his concern. But, Sir, I can assure the House that if he accepts the extra allowance of Rs.250, he will in no way deviate from the Congress principles.

I hope the House will accept this amendment of Sj. Omeo Kumar Das.

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: Sir, the Hon'ble Speaker, as you know, was a leading member of the Bar, and I would say that as a member of the bar his income was certainly a lucrative one. As a professional man he was held in high esteem. The law does not prevent him to take a salary fixed by Government and I do not find any reason why he should do otherwise. So far as the position of the Hon'ble Speaker is concerned, I think when he has already been elected as Speaker, I do not take him as belonging to any creed or party. He is not a party man. That is my view of the situation. Further we find that in the last April session it was his pronouncement before the House that he would not accept more than Rs.500. So the Hon'ble Speaker should not accept an additional allowance of Rs.250. So far as he is concerned we have not heard him say anything on this subject.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI MUDABBIR HUSSAIN CHAUDHURY: Did he not mention as a member of the Congress party that he could not accept more than Rs.500 as salary ?

MAULAVI ASHRAF UDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: So I say, he has not given any indication that he is going to accept Rs.250 as allowance. As I had privilege of knowing him, I do not think he would like to come by the backdoor. I admit Sir that his sacrifice is unparalleled in this House, there is none who will not admit it. But when we are to fix a salary for the Hon'ble Speaker we are not to give the salary with reference

to the wishes of the present Speaker but we shall fix a salary which we consider, his High Office demands, but so far as Congress is concerned we do not know how long the Congress will continue in office. From their past history, I say there is no certainty. (*A voice*—is it relevant, Sir?)

Sir, I should say that according to the pronouncement of no less a person than Pandit Jaharlal Nehru they should have remained satisfied with Rs.500. We have seen the pronouncement of Mr. Jaharlal Nehru that Rs.500 is enough. We have heard much about poor people, but at the same time we saw his daughter flying in an aeroplane. So, Sir, it is one thing to preach and another thing to practise in life. Sir, I think Rs.500 is very inadequate, but as to allowance we have not heard him say anything. In the circumstances, I should say that Rs.1,000 should be the salary and we must all agree to this.

SRIJUT DEVESWAR SARMAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. The proposal from the Chief Minister and the ideas expressed in his short speech as well as in those of the members supporting the Government proposal set one to furious thinking. I think every hon. member of the House will seriously consider the fact that as a Speaker he says "I am content with five hundred rupees"; the Government says "No, you must have one thousand". Sir, I heard some people say that one could be very generous with other people's money. With other people's money we can show our charitable disposition to a great extent. I hardly ever thought that I would have to experience practical demonstration of that saying in such a naked and unashamed way. What had been the defence of the Government. The main burden of the song is dignity. I hope hon. members of the House will agree with me that this is a wrong conception of the dignity. Money is not the criterion of the dignity.

Such a position as if Rs.500 is paid to the Speaker, his dignity is lessened but if Rs.1,000 is paid to him his dignity is enhanced, cannot be maintained. At any rate it will have be admitted that this is not the oriental conception. As regards this false sense of dignity, if I may be permitted a little digression I may say that when the conquerors came to stay in India, they had to live in imperious aloofness and imperial pomp and grandeur. They wanted more money. This does not apply to the Minister who is one of us,—the nation. Can we not expect a change in spirit from our Autonomous Provincial Cabinet? Can we not look upon them to adjust matters to the condition of our people. So, Sir, I would beseech the hon. members of this House to set an example by giving the Speaker what he has asked for, more so, because the amount of Rs.500 is not unreasonable considering the poverty of the Indian masses—Indian cultivators who pay bulk of the revenue with which we are going to play with, presently.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I want to speak a few words. We heard my hon. friend Maulavi Ashrafuddin Muhammad Chaudhuri eulogizing the generosity and large heartedness of the Hon'ble Speaker and at the same time we heard him say that he wished to enter by the back door by allowing himself to draw Rs.250 as allowance besides the amount that is allowed by the Congress mandate. This remark from my hon. friend must be protested and I strongly condemn it.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. member has misunderstood me.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I understood from his speech that he was really going to mention something against the Hon'ble Speaker which he had never mentioned before the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. I think, this sort of remarks relating to the speech of another member is not at all relevant. It is more or less a sort of personal attack. I hope the hon. member will consider about the remarks he has made.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: I submit to the point of order from the Chair.

Then, Sir, if I remember aright, during the last session of the Assembly of this House a question was put by Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman whether the Hon'ble Speaker was going to draw more than Rs.500 which was the mandate of the Congress Party. Then he definitely gave us to understand in this House that he was bound by the decision of the Congress creed or the Congress mandate. I think, I shall be correct in saying that he did not commit anything else when the Bill was first introduced before the House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I raised a point of order whether the Hon'ble Minister was in order to introduce the Bill demanding Rs.1,000 a month. Now, Sir, I do not find any necessity of giving much stress upon the Bill that has been introduced. Government has come forward with a Bill of Rs.1,000 a month. I think, Sir, it is up to the Hon'ble Speaker to draw the whole amount or any part of it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question before the House is that for clause 2 of the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, the following be substituted:—There shall be paid to the Speaker a salary of Rs.500 and car and house allowance of Rs.250 per mensem.

The House divided with the following result—

AYES—42	NOES—62
1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.	1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.	2. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.	3. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
4. Babu Balaram Sircar	4. Mr. Naba Kumar Datta.
5. Srijut Beli Ram Das.	5. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
6. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.	6. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
7. Babu Bipin Behari Das.	7. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
8. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.	8 Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
9. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.	9. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury
10. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.	10. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
11. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.	11. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
12. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.	12. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
13. Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi.	13. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
14. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.	14. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
	15. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
	16. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Choudhury.
	17. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
	18. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
	19. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
	20. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhury.

15. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
16. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
17. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
18. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
19. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
20. Srijut Jogeshchandra Gohain.
21. Babu Kalachand Roy.
22. Srijut Kameswar Das.
23. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
24. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
25. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
26. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarmah.
27. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
28. Srijut Lakhesvar Borooah.
29. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
30. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
31. Srijut Mahi[illegible]on to Chandra Bora.
32. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
33. Srijut Paramananda Das.
34. Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra Datta.
35. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
36. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
37. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
38. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
39. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
40. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
41. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
42. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
21. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
22. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
23. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
24. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
26. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
27. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
28. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
29. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury.
30. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
31. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
32. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
33. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
34. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
35. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
36. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
37. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
38. The Hon'ble Shamsul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Ma[illegible] Waheed.
39. Col. A. B. Beddow.
40. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
41. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
42. Mr. W. R. Faull.
43. Mr. W. Fleming.
44. Mr. B. I. Berry.
45. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
46. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
47. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
48. Miss Mavis Dunn.
49. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
50. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
51. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
52. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
53. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
54. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
55. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
56. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
57. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M Nichols-Roy.
58. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
59. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
60. Mr. P. Parida.
61. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
62. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

Ayes being 42 and Noes 62, the amendment was lost.

The question was put and it was decided that clause 2 of the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, do stand part of the Bill.

The question was put and it was decided that clause 1 of the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, do stand part of the Bill.

The question was put and it was decided that the preamble to the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, do stand part of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Speaker's Salary Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

The Bill was passed.

The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that clause 2 of the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration. The clause runs as follows:—"There shall be paid to the Deputy Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly a salary of Re.1 per mensem".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I find that there are two amendments, one standing in the name of Maulavi Abdul Aziz and the other in the name of Maulavi Md. Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.

At this point the Hon'ble Speaker occupied the Chair.

Salary of the Speaker of the House

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill is taken into consideration, I would like to bring to the notice of the Chair that during your absence certain questions were raised as regards your attitude in the matter of your salary, and it was alleged that this allowance might be as a sort of an eyewash on the part of the Hon'ble Speaker.....

Several cries of No, no, no.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: I was present in the House and I won't stand corrected in this matter.

One speaker went to the length of saying that you were thinking of reverting to your legal practice. Another member who has the Congress on his brains roamed so far afield as the aeroplane trip of the daughter of Mr. J aharlal Nehru! These insinuations and aspersions are, of course, beneath the notice of this House. Since however so many points have been raised, I would request you to announce your views as regards the attitude you have taken up in the matter of your salary as the Speaker of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Hon. members of this House were quite at liberty to discuss the question of the Speaker's salary in any way they like, but with regard to the matter to which my attention has been drawn by the hon. Mr. Chanda I think I owe it to myself and to this House to make a statement.

As regards my attitude with regard to the question of salary, that was made clear in the April session just after this hon'ble House was pleased to place me in this Chair. I then declared that according to the Congress decision as it then stood I would draw a salary at the rate of Rs.500 a month. I also said then that I would guide myself by the decision of the Working Committee of the Congress. Before I left this Chair this morning the leader of the opposition placed before the House in the shape of an amendment to the operative clause of the Bill what really was the decision of the Working Committee, and he made it clear that his amendment was just in perfect

conformity with that decision of the Working Committee, *i.e.*, a salary of Rs.500 and allowance of Rs.250. As I then said that although I ceased to be a party man so far as my duties as the Speaker of this House were concerned, as regards my own personal matters I would guide myself by the principles of the Congress that might be formulated from time to time. (*Hear, hear*).

Then with regard to the question as to whether I was trying to revert to my legal profession, it is really true that I was consulting the law as to whether that could be done. So far as I could see there was no bar in the law for a Speaker of a Legislative Assembly to practise as a lawyer. That was due to the fact that I was briefed by many clients before I was elected as the Speaker of this House, and I may mention here that in this House there are some hon. members who can testify to this, and even including the Minister for Agriculture. I was paid fees and to leave their work on the ground that my prestige stood in the way to appear before Courts of Justice, was a question which was troubling me. Because a plea before a Court of Justice that a Speakership of a Legislative Assembly is a bar to appearing before a Court of Justice might not be considered to be a valid plea. But my clients were all good to me although they paid fees in advance. I pursuaded them not to insist on my appearance before the courts, and to agree to take back the fees that they paid me. I consulted the Acts, the Presidents' Salaries Act of the various Legislative Councils and also the Act which prescribed a salary to the President of the Central Assembly. In the Act which prescribed salary for the President in the Central Assembly there is a distinct prohibition that the President of the Central Assembly would not be permitted to engage himself in trade, profession or business. But so far as the Acts prescribing the salaries of Presidents in the Councils are concerned, there is no such prohibition for the Presidents of the Councils. But there was a convention that the Presidents of the Councils should not engage themselves in any profession, business or trade. And I was always anxious to follow that convention. It is the wish of the Congress Working Committee also that the Congress Speakers should not engage themselves in any trade, business or profession. So when it is also the decision of the Congress Working Committee, I do not understand how it can arise with ... to me whose attitude is well known. However, I should again repeat that I would always abide by the decision of the Congress Working Commitee in my personal affairs. This is what I have to say with regard to the matters to which my attention has been drawn by the hon. member Mr. Chanda. (*Applause*).

DEWAN MAULAVI AHBAB CHAUDHURY VIDYABINODE: On a point of order, Sir, you say that you are a non-party man and again you say that you will be guided by the decision of the Congress Working Committee. May I know, Sir, how these two contradictory decisions can be reconciled?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think I have explained my position very clearly and there is no contradiction. I said that so far as my personal affairs are concerned I shall be guided by the Congress Working Committee.

The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Now we come to the Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill. There are two amendments. The first is in the name of Maulavi Maqbul Hussain Chaudhury.....

Voices: He is not in the seat, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then the next amendment is in the name of Maulavi Abdul Aziz. He may move his amendment.

MAULAVI ABDUL AZIZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to move the amendment.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then there are no amendments. I now put clause 2 to the House.

Clause 2 was put to the House and carried.

The title and the preamble of the Bill were also put and carried.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary Bill, 1937, be passed.

The motion was put to the House and carried and the Bill was passed.

The Assam Ministers' Salaries Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move that the Assam Ministers' Salaries Bill, 1937, clause 2 be considered. It runs as follows:

That there shall be paid to the Chief Minister a salary at the rate of Rs. 2,800 per mensem, and to each of the other Ministers a salary at the rate of Rs.1,800 per mensem.

I beg to move that this clause do stand as part of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The first amendment is in the name of Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi.

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I do not propose to move this amendment. I merely like to speak after the amendment has been moved by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: I beg to move. For clause 2 the following be substituted—

"There shall be paid to each of the Ministers a salary at Rs.500 per mensem with a house and car allowance of Rs.300 per mensem".

Speaker, Sir, in moving this amendment, let me say at the outset that I mean no disrespect to the Ministers. In bringing forward the amendment, I have been guided by the decision of the Congress and by the ideal which has been set by the Congress Ministers in other provinces. I was guided by the Madras Ministers' Salary and after that the Wardha decision of course changed the allowances to Rs.250. However, I do hope that the Ministers will not take it as a disrespect to them when I move this amendment. In all humility, Sir, that I can command I appeal to them to consider the depleted state of our finances and also the Congress ideal which has been set forth in other bigger provinces of India. Sir, the Congress when it decided to fix the salaries of Ministers, it did not do so without a purpose. It took into consideration the finances of our country, it took into consideration that the salaries of the public officers should be in proportion to the national income *per capita* of the people. Ours is a poor province and the income *per capita* is much smaller. In Japan and in the western countries the Ministers are paid lesser salaries than that proposed by the Government here. I think, therefore, the hon. members of this House will take into consideration the finances of our province. Most probably the argument that will be brought against my amendment will be the question of efficiency. When men like Mr. Rajagopalachariar and others can serve the country with a lesser salary, I think our Ministers can also serve their country at a smaller salary and also show the same example of sacrifice

to the country. In 1929, my friend, the Hon'ble Rev. Nichols-Roy, also made the same plea. He said, "There is no other way for us except to see that for the good and benefit of the country the cost of administration should be reduced. This should be done by commencing with the salaries of the Ministers who are in the hands of the people, and if these ministers do not show the example we do not expect other members of the Government will take the lead, I ask him to-day.....

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI:—On a point of information, Sir. May I know what salary was recommended by Rev. Nichols-Roy then ?

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: We are concerned here with the principle.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJI: We have already informed, Sir, that we consulted him. What is the good of taking up time over that ?

SRIJUT OMEO KUMAR DAS: I ask, Sir, in all humility at least Mr. Nichols-Roy and his friends to give the lead in this respect and show an example to the services over which we have no control in regard to their salaries. With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that—for clause 2 the following be substituted:—"There shall be paid to each of the Ministers a salary at Rs.500 per mensem with a house and car allowance of Rs.300 per mensem."

There are some other amendments. The next is that of Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. But before asking the hon. member to move his amendment, I want to put a question to the Hon'ble Finance Minister. In the Bill in clause 2 there are the words 'Chief Minister'. Is it not necessary to give a definition of Chief Minister to make the Bill self-contained ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In the body of the Act itself, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Otherwise there is no definition anywhere else. The Business Rules were framed under section 59 of the Government of India Act. If any other gentleman calls another Minister Chief Minister, then he is also Chief Minister. Therefore, there should be a definition to make the Act self-contained. The definition may be given either as clause in the Act or as an explanation.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: On a point of explanation, Sir. My hon. friend the mover.....

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Is the Hon'ble Minister speaking on that, Sir ? I think he will have a chance to speak.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: When the Hon'ble Minister speaks, if there be anything said by him, on which a question has been put to him, then the question of giving a personal explanation will arise.

THE HON'BLE REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I was just going to give my explanation because a statement was made about my speech isolated from the circumstances. At the time I made that statement the Ministers were drawing Rs.3,500.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I do not propose to move my amendment.

BABU BIPIN BEHARI DAS: Sir, I do not like to move my amendment.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I do not like to propose my amendment. At the same time I want to clear my position in a word. I belong to a party which is well known to others. I am not moving this amendment according to the arrangement of my party.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD ALI : Sir, I do not like to move my amendment.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL : Sir, I also do not wish to move my amendment.

MAULAVI NAMWAR ALI BARBHUIYA : Sir, I do not want to move my amendment.

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN : Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2 of the Bill the figures "2,500" shall be substituted for the figures "2,800" and in the same clause for the figures "1,800" the figures "1,500" shall be substituted.

Sir, we have great admiration for the principles which have been given expression to by the hon. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. The Congress has set up an ideal which we on our part find it difficult to follow. The hon. mover has referred to other countries also. I think he referred to the salaries that are being drawn by officers in Japan. But I want to remind the House that the conditions of Japan are quite different from those of India. In Japan, the article I have got here in a paper says, every man considers himself to be the member of a great family of which the King is the father. And the King claims a divine origin and every officer from high to low is inspired by the ideal of work for the glory and the future of the country. But in India the conditions are quite different. We have here the high-salaried civil servants. The question here is the question of *dal-bhat* or bread and butter ; we have not only got hunger for food, but have got also, as one hon. member the other day said, hunger for land and hunger for money. So in a country like this we cannot take Japan as an ideal. On the other hand, England is supposed to be one of the most democratic countries of the world and there we have got an example. There although they also work for the country, they do not lay down as a principle that the officers should receive as low a salary as possible. There the principle is that the officers must be remunerated adequately for the service they render to the country. I think the Congress also has come to be initiated into that ideal. I shall explain what I mean.

There was a time when Mahatma Gandhi said that Rs.75 was quite enough for any able man in India. I will read from one of his articles " Ministership not a Prize—Crown of Thorns", which runs thus :—" I must say that considering Rs.500 as if it was the minimum instead of the maximum was a mistake—Rs.500 was the last limit. Had we not got used to the excessive scale of salaries imposed upon the country we would have regarded Rs.500 to be excessive. The Congress scale has been generally for the past seventeen years at least Rs.75 per month. In its three great constructive departments, National Education, Khadi and Village Industries, the authorised scale has been Rs.75. These departments contain men who are good enough, so far as ability is concerned, any day to be ministers. They are distinguished educationists, lawyers, chemists and merchants who, if they were so minded, could easily command over Rs.500 per month. Why should the fact of becoming a minister make the great difference we see ? But the die is perhaps cast. My remarks represent my personal opinion".

Now the ideal before was that Rs.75 should be the pay of any high officer. But later on in the Karachi resolution the Congress decided that Rs.500 should be the maximum. In the Working Committee at Wardha they decided that not only they should get Rs.500 but they should also get allowances for their house and conveyance. Now it may be that the Congress ideal may shift further when the Working Committee of the Congress may rule that there should be allowance for the members of their family. So, Sir, we who live in the real world amidst diverse interests and who are

out for *Dal Bhat*, cannot follow this flexible ideal. In this view of the matter I would not stick to that ideal and I will lay down as my ideal that we should give adequate salary to the Ministers, and this adequate salary must be judged from the local conditions. We know, Sir, Shillong is a dear living place and a Minister has to maintain his dignity and prestige in all possible manner. He has to pay income tax, house rent, municipal tax and numerous contributions to charitable institutions. With all these, I think, Rs.1,500 is just the adequate salary for any Minister.

Now as regards the Chief Minister I propose Rs.2,500 in consideration of a greater responsibility that devolves on his shoulders, in consideration of his status as Leader of the House and last but not the least in consideration of his enviable parts. My proposal is in strict conformity with the decision which was arrived at by the Assam Valley Muslim Party in a meeting held at Gauhati in which my hon. friend Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was present. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed the other day attacked my mentality. I do not know what his mentality is because he was a party to this resolution. I do not know what his political creed is to-day. He is neither a fish nor a flesh nor red herring. Neither he goes to the Congress nor does he come to sit with us.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Are we dealing with the Ministers salary or the merits and demerits of any member ?

KHAN SAHIB MAULAVI SAYIDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I am referring to him because Mr. Fakhruddin tabled a motion giving a higher salary than that proposed by the Congress. I would not make my speech long, but I would move this amendment and commend it to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the Speaker put the motion again.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Sir, the Congress ideal is that the pay of the Speaker and that of the Ministers should not be more than Rs.500 *plus* car and house allowances. Now that ideal was put to test in this House when the Speaker's Salary Bill was taken into consideration and the clear verdict of this House was against that ideal. I am sure the hon. members will stick to that ideal and will not support the amendment that has been moved by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: Much has been said and more written regarding Ministers' salaries. Why this should have formed such an important matter of controversy it is difficult to explain when relatively much larger expenditure and wider issues are accepted without criticism.

Let us, therefore, within a brief space prune this controversy of much that is irrelevant and address ourselves to the essentials of the problem.

I presume that all will agree that the salary should be adequate. Many will be the interpretations of adequacy but it will be generally conceded that the community has no right to sponge on its servants, and ought to set an example of good treatment to other employers. It is shameful to us that a man who has spent his brains and energy in serving his province should, in his old age, be compelled to live on the bounty of his friends ; or that a member who has no private means and who gives up his occupation to help in the Government of his country, should be compelled to live below the margin of decency compatible with his office. There can be no argument about this. It is bad that a private individual should be a sweater ; it is intolerable that the State should be one.

With these two conclusions then we have to deal and in our view we had decided that Rs.2,000 ought to be the minimum salary for the Chief Minister and Rs.1,500 for his colleagues, as fulfilling the requirements of decent remuneration for the present, and something to assure them for the future.

But this is not the end of our deliberations. We feel that the figures which have just been quoted represent allowances for the present and that in the future, when perhaps the financial position of the province will be easier, a review of these figures may be possible in an upward direction. In saying this we leave out of consideration the identity of the incumbent. We feel that it should be possible for men of capacity to look forward to politics as an honourable career ; that men of highest ability may be persuaded that it is worth their while to contribute of their best to the service of the State at a remuneration which will compare favourably with the return from any other profession.

In this country particularly it is not a fair comparison to cite the sacrifices the genius of other countries makes in order to distinguish himself in politics. Ambition takes many forms and the rewards of political success very greatly. No reward is likely to weigh where one's own or one's family needs have to be neglected ; nor indeed can efficiency be expected where domestic worries are involved. In this country there is almost a complete absence of the wealthy leisured class which can afford to devote its time to the pursuit of politics at an age when the best may be expected. In any event, it seems undesirable that Government should be the monopoly of the affluent classes.

My friends on the right, in the determination of their limit of remuneration, are prompted by an altruism which is unusual, for which we have the warmest admiration. In our view, the figure they propose is wholly inadequate to do justice either to the office or the incumbent. Their self-abnegation undoubtedly brings its own reward in the knowledge of service. But in the hard struggle of life, it is not the kind of reward which the State can fairly be expected to demand of all members of the community.

It is therefore with this outlook that we hope the hon. members will take a long and broad view, for only by securing the best the Province can produce will Government, whatever its label or personnel, bring the greatest measure of prosperity and happiness to its people.

I would ask the Hon'ble the Chief Minister if he is still disposed to give that gesture which he mentioned at the time the Bill was introduced and we shall have no difficulty in supporting the amendment of my friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: I am very sorry that I cannot support the amendment of my friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman because this cut Rs.300 only will not have much effect on the poor public and the effect will be only on the Ministers. As I said already, Sir, the world wide policy is to have cadre of services. There are scales of pays and I wish I could lecture on this because I am prepared for half hour's talk but I am going to put some facts—admitted facts—which cannot be denied. There are cadres, as I said and also scales of pay in every department throughout the world in all Governments. There are the rulers and the ruled, there are masters and the servants—there are head masters and the assistant masters ; so I say in connection with the Salary Bill the question does not concern the need of the incumbent but the question concerns the merit of the post and occupation.

Sir, I am very much pleased to see that party spirit is going on here. And I am very very happy to find such party spirit because in Colleges and Universities there is party spirit. There are literary contests, in oration, debate, essays and declamations. There are also inter-classes scraps and scrap days exist in some Colleges. And Sir I enjoyed having been fortunate enough in participating in such wholesome competitions during my short stay in America.

Sir, I am sorry, as I have said, I cannot support the amendment.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: On a point of information, Sir. Does my hon. friend want Sir, that the amendment of my friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das should be accepted.

MR. JOBANG D. MARAK: No, certainly I support the Government Bill for the reasons that it will not affect much the poor people but will be hard on the Ministers. For this reason I am not prepared to support the amendment but I support strongly the Government Bill.

MR. NABA KUMAR DUTTA: I want to say a few words on the amendment moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman. The right of fixing the salaries of the Ministers has been given to us under the Government of India Act and we value this right a great deal. We value it, Sir, not because it gives us an opportunity of effecting economy on a considerable scale, but by fixing the salaries of Ministers at reasonable level we can set up an ideal of economy and at the same time reveal our determination to meet a knotty problem with perfect fairness. Sir the question as to what should be the salary of the Ministers has baffled the politicians and economists. One school of thought tells us that Rs. 500 should be the figure beyond which no salary should go. They demand that the Ministers who are the representatives of the people should show the way in this respect. But that school of thought find themselves in practical difficulties and they have to modify their theoretical decree for a salary of Rs.500 for a Minister by admitting allowances in the shape of motor allowance and house allowance. Sir the question can as well be put that why a popular Minister in a country of bullock carts should have a motor car. The truth is, Sir, that the figure that can be called a reasonable one depends on the environments and circumstances over which our Government have no control. If Rs.500 is decreed as the highest salary that is paid in the country even to the Viceroy, the price level of the country must come down and the standard of living will take a different shape. Sir, money is means to an end and not an end itself. It is the purchasing power of the money that the people want and not the money itself. Purchasing power of the money in this country has been kept low by the high salaries that are paid to the Government officers over whose emoluments our Government has no control. (*hear, hear*). Sir, under the present circumstances, Rs. 500 which would have been a very reasonable salary in an order of society, where no salary goes beyond that figure appears to be very inadequate a sum in the present order of society. Sir, we must not forget that though politics involve sacrifice of income to a certain extent, yet too inadequate a salary will draw to the Ministry only people with fat bank balances and thus a plutocracy will be established.

Sir, in the amendment which has been moved by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman it is proposed to give to the Ministers a salary less than what is being proposed now in the Government Bill. By this, Sir, we are not going to save considerable amount of money for various Nation-building departments but we can set an ideal of economy. It will be an ideal in the sense Sir, that the salaries of other Government officers must be

halved if they are to be proportionate to those figures. Lastly, Sir, on the analogy of British Cabinet system we should pay higher salary to the Chief Minister. British Cabinet system has grown through convention but our Cabinet system has been copied from it. Sir, if we want a Cabinet system of Government the position of the Chief Minister or Premier whatever you call him must be recognised. I hope, Sir, in this amendment different view points will find a ready compromise.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. At the same time I have to confess a feeling that after the division result of the Speaker's Salary Bill was declared a little while ago, one would have a very robust heart to be able to give vent to his feeling. The thought evaporates and the expression, poor in foreign language as it is, vanishes away. Sir, out of a sense of public duty, as we understand it we have to submit our views on the matter before the House for its consideration. First of all, Sir, our attention is being drawn to a point raised by my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull. He fails to see why there should be so much controversy on this point, namely the Ministers' Salary Bill. If he does not understand why there is such a controversy—a genuine and sincere controversy on the subject, I must say that it is irony of fate. The controversy is due to a state of things created by Mr. Hockenhull Company Unlimited (*laughter*). I mean to say, Sir, that a constitution, a system of administration has been thrust upon the people of India in which about half of the total of the revenue cannot be touched.

MR. F. W. HOCKENHULL: 17 lakhs.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: Your figure is not correct. Kindly go through the budget. Now, Sir, if the Act itself imposes upon the poor rate-payers that he is only to pay but he has no right to call for the tune, to say how and whether his revenue will be spent then what is left to the tax-payers? He can only ask his own people, his own popular Ministers to accept much smaller salary and then want them to appeal to the great services to agree to come down in conformity with that reasonably small salary that they accept. I think, this is sufficient to explain why is this controversy about it is so keen. Sir, we are extremely sorry to have to criticise the Hon'ble Ministers before the House. I think all hon. members of this House would agree with me that after a month's sitting after a month's talking volumes together and incidentally spending a huge amount of the tax-payers money, we, should, have liked to part in a friendly way. I hope we will yet do so and any remarks that we may be constrained to pass may not be taken as personal. Individually none of us—ourselves and Ministers—had any occasion to cross each other's shadow. So whatever remarks we may happen to pass may be taken in the light of a broad consideration.

Hon. Mr. Hockenhull said that it is shameful to accept service from an employee and then to treat with without adequate salary. Every sensible gentleman of this House will agree that one has to pay adequately for services rendered and received. It has two aspects to which I will come presently. What is a reasonable salary to the Ministers, the hon. members will honestly determine, but I think there will be hardly any man in Assam who will disagree as to the inadequacy of the remuneration that is given to the employees in the Tea Estates (*hear, hear*). There are about 8 lakhs of them in the Tea Estates. I hope and trust that the statement that has been made by hon. Mr. Hockenhull on the floor of this House to-day will be logically extended into practice in the Tea gardens (*hear,*

hear). Sir, I may be permitted to say that a half fed, sickly, anæmic, half naked woman in the tea garden carrying (Mr. Baidyanath Mookejee: better than villagers) her child on her back bound with a rug, working day in and day out, in sun and rain, for the white masters (there are also our brown masters) falls in the same category she is the tea-plantation labour,—a sample of adequate wage. Sir, the remuneration that is being paid to the labourers in the Tea Estates are hardly sufficient to keep the skin and soul together. (Mr Hockenhull: Sheer non-sense). Sir, The miseries of the labourers of the tea gardens demonstrate inhuman and scandalous in adequacy of wages and our conscientious employer must try to ameliorate the condition of this labouring class. May we not expect that charity will begin at their own homes— the tea estates ?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: On a point of order. A few minutes ago the Deputy Speaker gave a ruling that an hon. member should not attack another in his speech.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: I think it is not an attack, but the hon. member is only meeting the arguments of Mr. Hockenhull.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: It is not an attack, Sir.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Sir, when a point of order is raised by any hon. member, I think, the hon. member who is speaking ought to be called to order. Of course, if a point of information is raised, he may not be called to order.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Of course, when a point of order is raised the hon. member should be called to order.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: In this matter I was imitating the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri in the way which he showed the other day. I am sorry I could not imitate him as efficiently as he d'd perform.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: Not on a point of order

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: Sir, the next point is the adequacy of it. I listened attentively to the hon. members talking about Ministers' salary, both on the original motion as well as on the amendment. I was waiting anxiously to hear what was the basis of this proposal—I mean on what basis this amount had been fixed. Sir, the basis of a salary that will be given will be controlled either by the law of demand and supply, or ability to pay and efficiency.

As regards the law of demand and supply, if that is to be applied, Sir, I can only say that there will not be members of this House wanting, who will come forward to accept the Ministry at the amended sum that has been proposed by my friend Mr. Omeo Kumar Das. It is all very nice to throw cheap jibes at, and also to ridicule the members of the Congress Party by the Hon'ble Ministers, who have already swallowed up Rs.50,000 of our revenue till to-day.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is also putting jibes.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: In that case I think it will be admitted by all on the floor of the House that the basis for the sum fixed in the Ministers' salary Bill is not that of demand and supply.

Then, Sir, the next test which inevitably come in is the adequacy of salary in relation to efficiency and ability of the province to pay. I will first take the question of efficiency, Sir.

Starting with the Premier, we heard from him the other day in reply to a supplementary question from this corner, to quote his own words—that he has a "broad chest" to bear the pressure of criticism, but we have not heard a single word from him as to whether he has a broad chest also to shoulder a plan of work in any nation building sphere. Sir, the Budget is before us ; five months of valuable time elapsed. We listened attentively to the budget speech, and the subsequent reply given in answer to cut motions by the Premier and his four colleagues, but none of us had the good luck to hear that any of them had got any scheme in any matter. Sir, in this matter I confess my disappointment at no constructive suggestion forthcoming from the European Group also. The British people are very well known as a planning race. Without planning they do not proceed with any work. Whenever a house is built, whenever a tea plantation is set out, whenever anything is intended to be done, there is a plan, there is an estimate for it. Sir, I may be permitted to appeal to the hon. members of this House to recapitulate, to search their memory to remember if there is a single scheme or plan of future work whether in Industry, or in Agriculture whether in Forests, or in Education. The Ministry has never come forward and said " Well, this is our proposal, this is what we want to do". Wherein then, Sir, comes the question of efficiency ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : We are fixing the salaries of Ministers who are now in the Cabinet, and also who will be coming in their place. How does this personal element come in I cannot understand.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA: The personal element comes in because the Ministers are not impersonal or ethereal being and we pay for the services of these persons.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On a point of order, Sir. Are we fixing the salaries of the present Cabinet of Ministers, or are we fixing the salaries of Ministers for all time to come ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : As I read sub-section (3) of section 51 of the Government of India Act, I am disposed to hold that the salaries of Ministers are being fixed without any reference to the personnel. The Bill has not been framed in such a way as may show that the salaries are being fixed only for the present Ministry. Of course there is a proviso to sub-section (3), which says " the salary of a Minister shall not be varied during his term of office." Now it means, as I understand the section, that the House will fix the salaries of Ministers but when a Ministry will come into existence and accept the salaries provided for them by the Act it will not be varied during their term of office. So we are fixing the salaries for all Ministers to come, *i.e.*, the present Ministry and the Ministry which may come to replace them. But if that Ministry accept the salary, then it cannot be altered during their term of office. The hon. menbers in this connection will take into consideration the Members' Salary Bill. There we are fixing the salary of the present members, and also the coming members in case the Assembly is dissolved. So in that view I hold that the salary which this House will fix is a salary without any reference to the existing personnel. Of course the salaries are being fixed during the term of the present Ministry and so long they will be holding office, these salaries cannot be varied. But there may be an occasion to amend the Act and fix different salaries in case there be a change of the Ministry. It may be argued, however, that the salaries even if accepted by a new Ministry may be varied on the ground that they were not fixed during their tenure.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: May I be permitted to add a word, Sir ? The word " his " appears in the Act.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Where, in the proviso ? Yes it is stated there, as I have already shown that " the salary of a Minister shall not be varied during his term of office. " I have given my interpretation that if a Minister is appointed and accepts the salary fixed then his salary should not be varied during his term of office.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Sir, on the basis of the word " his " different salaries are being prescribed for different Ministers, and if that can be done I think the salaries that are being fixed are valid during the term of office of the present incumbents only.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Well, that is not my view of the section. And moreover, as I have already told, the Bill has not been framed in that way.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, in the Bill it is mentioned " other four Ministers ". If another Minister is taken in, is any salary fixed for him ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I think the hon. member is not right. In the body of the Bill, there is no mention of four Ministers. It is only in the Statement of Objects to Reasons that we find the words " the other four Ministers." If the Act that is going to be passed with the words " four Ministers " then in the contingency mentioned by the hon. member the Act will have to be amended.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA : We have to bow down to the ruling of the Chair. But before you gave your ruling, my understanding on a reading of the section was that " his " meant that if another Ministry came in, the question might be raised again and it could be discussed. That is what I understood by a reading of that section. What is your ruling on it, Sir ?

THE HON' BLE THE SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA : Coming to efficiency, we have to look to the efficiency of the whole Cabinet, we have also to look to the efficiency of each Minister constituting the Cabinet.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : There is no mention of 5 Ministers in the Bill ; there is mention of one Chief Minister and each of the other Ministers.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA : It amounts to the same thing for our purpose. We have to look to the budget and the programme that the Cabinet lays before this House for the purpose of ascertaining efficiency.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Does the hon. member mean that he will give higher salary to a more efficient Minister ?

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMA : We want to give a deserving salary to a deserving man. If we have efficient experts we have to pay more for them. The Director of the Pasteur Institute draws a very high salary, we cannot have his expert services of his standard for a less amount, but we do not want to pay the same salary to a quack. Are you satisfied, Sir ?

Coming to the budget, the estimate that has been put up before this House bears a very close family likeness to the old budgets of the bureaucratic days. Even if we strain ourselves to see whether there is an improvement, I confess that we fail to find any, and I shall be glad to be corrected if any other hon. member can point me to any.

As regards answers to the question or to the cut motions the replies that have been given by the Hon'ble Ministers in the Cabinet are all known to each one of the hon. members, and I can challenge them to lay their hands on their breast and say that they are satisfied with them. Of course

as regards the efficiency of the present Cabinet we have seen it in one way, *viz.*, in dilatory tactics and in dragging the discussions to another day to make other arrangements under cover of darkness (*laughter*). If that efficiency was stretched towards nation-building schemes and purposes the country would have been grateful.

Coming to the second point, the ability of the province to pay the salary asked for these amiable gentlemen, Sir, the daily income of the Indians per head is known to all. How can we forget the distressed, the miserable condition of the bulk of our masses who have hardly two meals a day all the year round (*laughter*). It pains me to find that Mr. Hockenhull and his party can afford to laugh when I say that most Indians do not know what two full meals a day are. It does not surprise me so much because they live in such affluence, they are in such a state of prosperity that it is difficult for them to understand, much less appreciate the pangs of hunger of these poor people. But it pains me more to find that even our friend Mr. Jobang D. Marak goes a step further up from that amendment of Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman, and he wants the whole Bill passed. Sir, those of us who have seen the condition of the Lalungs, Mikirs, Miris, Garos and Kacharis can only understand how sad is their plight ; they are the poorest of the whole indigenous population ; in the winter they have hardly got any cloth to cover themselves. The Government Officers also know this. So from the standpoint of the ability of the province I do not think (and nobody has advanced any argument to the contrary), that we are capable of paying such a high salary. Then what is our position ? When we find that we are unable to pay, we appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers that they who form a part of the nation, may set an example — that the popular Ministers of autonomous regime will show an example by taking a reasonable salary, and that they will also approach the All-India Services to accept a similar reduction in their salaries.

MR. C. GOLDSMITH: Sir, this question of salaries is a sore spot and all eyes are on this question. This therefore requires a careful examination. I shall first speak about the principles involved and then the application thereof.

Many look up to the salary drawn formerly, *viz.*, Rs. 3,500. But those days have passed. I agree with the Congress when they say that we have to look to the masses. The average income of a man is about Rs. 4 so many of the people have never earned that large amount in their whole life-time. We have to look both heaven and earth and seek a *via media*.

Many think dignity, prestige, and honour are coupled with high salary. This is entirely wrong. I am one with hon. friend, Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, and say that honour and prestige do not go hand in hand with high salary. Honour and prestige are earned only by these three things — self-sacrifice, service and humility. We too can stand the challenge of the whole world to maintain this statement. When I mention this there is the word "service" and service must be paid properly. But service must come first and emoluments afterwards.

Some, again, are of opinion that the I. C. S. Officers will draw higher salaries. We Indians are theoretical and Britishers are practical, but sometimes we are too theoretical and they are too practical. I am confident as they are practical they will follow suit. If we agree and stand together unitedly we stand, if we do not stand together we fall.

Another principle is that if a cut is made in the Minister's salary say by Rs.300 then it will do no good to the people at large. If we divide what is saved proportionately amongst the people then they will get very little. But, Sir, that is not the question. The point is if that reduction is made in the salary of the Ministers then that will have an effect on the whole country, on the whole administration and that will be a great moral effect. That is the point.

I now come to the application thereof. I take the data from the congress manifesto and the working committee that has put a standard for the congress Ministers. At first the amount of Rs.500 was in the manifesto. Afterwards we find that a sum of Rs.250 was added as allowance. That shows what the position is. It shows that the Rs.500 first mentioned was an arbitrary figure and therefore they had to add the emoluments. For this the congress high command had to interfere and fix this extra Rs.250 as allowance. That shows that there must have been a tendency to go over Rs.250. And as there was a divergence of opinion the high command had to be called in to intervene and decide. This shows the congress was not sure of the standard. So, are we, Sir, now finding it difficult to fix a standard or criterion to be established in the case of the salaries of the Ministers.

Then comes the question as to what the present Ministers have to do. The Ministers, we must admit are the highest officials in the province. Therefore, they must be regarded as such with dignity and honour. The responsibility of the present Ministry is undoubtedly far greater than that of the former one. And if we want proper men we must of course pay them properly.

In this connection, I have to say this. The largest party was the Congress party and they ought to have taken up the responsibilities of office. But they were guided by principles of their own and respected them and we congratulate them for keeping and maintaining them. But when they could not take up office it became so very difficult to form a Ministry. We all know the history of the formation of the Ministry and can understand. And the present Ministry had to take office under very difficult circumstances.

Then comes the question of the cut proposed. A cut of Rs.300 each may be said to be very little. But it will have a moral effect. If the Ministers salaries are fixed at this figure and that amount is saved I believe it will mean a saving of Rs.1,500 a month and Rs.18,000 a year. It may mean a retrenchment of Rs.18 lakhs in the whole administration and a saving through economy and thrift in the whole province to the amount of 18 crores of rupees. There will be this moral effect. Then comes the question of spirit of service. It is said that we must have the spirit of service. Sir, the other day the Hon'ble the Chief Minister expressed a feeling when speaking about the police service that the officers are not masters but servants. From no on I hope they will feel that instead of being the masters they are the servants of the people. That should be the feeling of every one in the administration. The basic principle of democratic Government is that the officers of the State are servants and not masters of the people. I believe this principle, the administration, will bear in mind.

Sir, I now come to the point of sacrifice. We all know that Mahatma Gandhi has sacrificed much and he is an example to the whole of India. But that kind of sacrifice all cannot make and the congress Ministers also, as seen, have not been able to make sacrifice like him. But the country must learn more and more about the spirit of sacrifice and I am sure congress can help in this matter and I can trust them for that.

So all these things should be taken into consideration with regard to the question of salaries. We commend to the Ministers that when retrenchment is effected in the whole administration and changes take place in the whole country they may voluntarily undergo further retrenchment themselves and respond to the call of the country.

Taking all these into consideration I support the amendment of Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman.

KHAN BAHADUR KERAMAT ALI: Sir, may I move for a closure? There are many things else to be done.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:—Throughout the speeches that have been made up till now on this question, I find one thing very peculiar. Except on the side of the Congress, I find that a large section of the House is looking at the whole matter from the point of view of the members who are occupying the Treasury benches. If that be the criterion to fixing the salaries of the Members of the Treasury, then certainly, on that score also we can show instances where abler men, more efficient and more capable, have been holding offices on much reduced salaries in comparison with the financial position of the provinces.

Sir, if you look at it, as the Congress looks at it, from the point of view of our financial position at present and from the point of view of the condition of the peasantry for whom we are here, the position would be different. Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Ministers are going to be awarded Rs.1,800 and Rs.2,800 per month chiefly because as it has been stated there are no abler men to be found in the province as it were to work on a reduced salary for the people of the country. If that be the position and if the Ministers would not work for the people for less than what has been stated in the Bill, it then, I say, lacks a sense of feeling for their own brethren in the villages. Sir, if the province of Madras, where the Ministers' salaries before the Governme t of India Act, 1935 were Rs.6,500 a month compared with Rs.3,500 a month in the province of Assam, and when at present the Ministers of that province are drawing Rs.750 a month we do not see that a Minister of Assam with a revenue of only 'one-sixth of that of the Madras Presidency cannot work for Rs.750. Sir, the revenue position of Madras is at present more than Rs.18 crores and here in Assam it is not even Rs.3 crores. Therefore, if the Ministers of the calibre and position of Mr Rajagopalachariar, can work for Rs.750 we do not see why the Hon'ble Ministers of this province cannot work for that amount.

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED: According to you then they should take less.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Yes, I think so. I think really they should take less. If in a big province like Madras they can work for Rs.750, in a province like Bombay if Mr. Nariman can work for Rs.750, if Mr. Kher can work for Rs.750, I do not see, at least the whole of this side of the House does not see, why our Ministers cannot work for Rs.750. Sir, from my personal experience, I can tell the House why our Hon'ble Ministers cannot work on a pay Rs. 750. Sir, from my personal experience I can tell this House that in Bombay the cost of living is much higher than what it is here. We have seen, Sir, that the families of Assam generally can live on less than Rs.500 a month. We do not want to make the salaries of the Ministers such as to make provision for their future or as a sort of pension to enable them to build up huge bank balances for their retirement.

Next, Sir, we have seen even in countries like Japan, with revenues of more than 500 crores a year, the Chief Minister is only getting Rs. 700 a month. So even comparing with countries with far vaster resources, we will find that Rs.750 is rather too much for a province like Assam. Sir, as the hon. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta has also said, the standard of living and other things would all depend on the environment and the surroundings. I fully agree with him that the value of things will also fall with the fall in the standard of living or with the fall in the income of the population. And therefore, even with Rs.750 and with the reduction in prices of articles which will follow the reduction of salaries, I think the Hon'ble Ministers can easily pull on with that amount.

Next, Sir, we have found that the Hon'ble Ministers in the Congress provinces have requested the members of the Civil Service to retrench their own salaries voluntarily, because they have themselves taken very small salaries in comparison with other provinces. Now, Sir, with a Chief Minister drawing Rs. 2,500 here, can we expect any member of the Civil Service to retrench his own salary voluntarily ?

Next, Sir, I find that, if the amendment moved by the hon. Mr. Omeo Kumar Das is accepted by the House, we get an amount of Rs. 72,000 a year for taking over more than 500 venture schools in the rural areas. In the present budget, Sir, we have found that the provision has been made only for 350 venture schools. When the province is clamouring for money for primary education as well as for other education and sundry departments, such as water-supply and medical stand badly in need of funds, I think if we could spare this Rs. 72,000 a year, we can at least provide for these 500 more venture schools. At present there are nearly 1,000 venture schools in the province. The provision made in the budget for taking over venture schools is only Rs. 50,000, and the other day the Hon'ble Education Minister told us that there is provision only for 350 such schools. Now, Sir, if the hon. members who are here, who are desirous of improving the condition of the people and of rescuing them in all these matters, if they support the Bill for such a huge amount as more than a lakh of rupees for the Ministers, I feel they will be doing a great injustice and disservice to their own people.

Then, Sir, as regards some statements made in some quarters, I do not find that they are properly substantiated. I speak about tea gardens. With my little experience of tea-gardens, Sir, I know personally that the hon. members who come from that quarter are earning a profit of 4 annas per pound of tea. That 4 annas is not divided among the workers themselves. It goes to their own pockets or the pockets of those who are in England or in other countries.

MR. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : When they lose by lakhs ?

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : That is not a matter for consideration before the House to-day. That was one for consideration on the day of revenue demand. He may ask for remission of land revenue then. Therefore, Sir, we oppose the amendment of Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman and support the one brought forward by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY : I want an information from the last speaker whether, in place of 5 Ministers and 5 Secretaries, if we have 10 Ministers and 10 Secretaries, there would be less burden on the tax-payer ?

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : If we make it Rs.750 for ery Minister, then also the aggregate will be less.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, as I rise to speak on this Bill and the amendments, I feel compelled to narrate to the House what I once witnessed during my travels in Europe. Greece, as you know, Sir once a home of culture and learning is now at its lowest ebb of civilization. Though it has lost its old fame and reputation, it has acquired attention of the world in another direction. It has become known for a section of its people engaged in pickpocketing who have excelled in the job to such an extent that not a traveller of means who goes to that country can come back without being done in. When I happened to be there, I heard that the daughter of the French Premier, Monsieur Clemencau, who was at that time visiting the country, lost her necklace and money. It naturally created sensation and set the Police to trace out the culprits. When all the attempts of the Police to recover the lost property failed some patriots, who felt indignant and ashamed, published in the papers that it was a day of shame for Greece that some of its people should stoop so low as to inflict a loss on the daughter of a person who did so much for their country and that in recognition of his service it was fit that his daughter's property should at once be returned. Although the efforts of the Police had failed, the publication brought about a good result and in about two days' time the daughter of the Premier got back her necklace and property. If these people of Greece, who obviously had deprived the Premier's daughter of her property for their individual ends, could rise to the occasion when their national honour was at stake, is it too much to expect from the hon. members who are not here for serving their individual ends but to serve the country to rise to the occasion and fix the salaries of the Ministers in proportion to the capacity of the province to bear such an expenditure.

Sir, I have been charged at by the Hon'ble Chief Minister once or twice before for taking such course of actions. The hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman has attempted to ridicule me to-day by questioning my mentality. They talk of my new love. Well, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that I have been more consistant and constant in my love than the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman, if they were to know of my convictions from my Cambridge days and onwards and if they were to confess the truth and not misrepresent them for a period for which they have known me they will have to admit that what I stood for before I stand even to-day.

Then, Sir, I have been attacked about my mentality and the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman has accused me of not respecting the decision of the Assam Valley Muslim Party in the matter of salaries of Ministers. Even if my Hon'ble friend the Chief Minister does not support me, I think the minutes of the meeting would themselves speak and show clearly that I stood against the proposal of giving high salaries to the Ministers and also that I refused to be a party to such proposal without consulting my constituency. I shall yield neither to the Hon'ble Chief Minister nor to the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman in this matter and I must vote as I am dictated by my constituency and I can assure you in that my constituency is not in favour of giving more than Rs. 1,000 to the Ministers.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: But that amendment has been withdrawn by the hon. member.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have no other alternative, now, but to oppose the Bill and the amendment which has been proposed by the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman.

Sir, it is all very well to attack the Congress and its ideal. Would it be too much to ask the hon. Khan Sahib and his supporters to place the ideal of Islam if not of Congress before them. Did the Khalifs in former days even though they had the control over the riches, money and wealth of the country, appropriate to themselves and waste in other ways the coffers of the State as the present Ministry propose to do ? It is hardly pleasing to hear from my devout and enthusiastic Muslim friend the hon. Khan Bahadur Mahmud Ali, that he does not stand here for Islamic ideal.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Is it Islamic ideal to wear that dress we see on the speakers person ?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am not surprised that my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali has once again interrupted me, but, can he show us in any books or anywhere else the type of dress a Muslim should put on. If it can be shown that a Muslim should put on the dress which he is now putting I shall follow the example set by him.

Then we have been told that we should follow in this matter the example not of Japan but of England. I wish that the example of England could have been followed in some other directions as well. If this Ministry or its supporters are so mindful of following the constitutional machinery and conventions which are followed in England, this Ministry should have at once resigned after the cut motions which are in fact censure motions were passed against the Government. Sir, when those matters of established constitutional conventions and practices are concerned they do not want to follow the example of England because it means personal loss to them, but when the question of personal gain and salary comes in we are not only urged to follow the practice in England and reminded of the salary of the British Premier and Ministers. In considering the question we should not forget the realities and the difference that exists between England and Assam. Can the average income of the people of Assam be favourably compared with the the average income of the people of England ? Do the Hon'ble Minsters and their supporters realise that these people who come to occupy a position in the Cabinet in England come at a great sacrifice ? Instances are not wanting to show that persons earning in their business or profession something like 40 to 45 thousand pounds a year, have accepted places in the British Cabinet at great sacrifice with the sole motive of serving their country. We have been told that the Ministership in Assam is not a prize but a crown of thorns. Sir, I do not agree with this suggestion at all.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : That was a statement made by Mahatma Gandhi.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am considering the statement made by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman in relation to Assam.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Then Khan Sahib only quoted the remark made by Mahatma Gandhi.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Hon. Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali says that this was a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi, but the hon. Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman when he made this statement did suggest that Ministership in Assam is a crown of thorns.

(*Voice* : Yes, he did).

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Is this an Islamic idea of hearing things ?

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I suppose Khan Bahadur Keramat Ali wants to enforce on me his ideal of life by his very enthusiastic and constant interruptions. It was stated that ministership in Assam, is not a prize but a crown of thorns. Mahatma Gandhi may have made this statement but is the hon. Khan Sahib justified in criticising it in the case of Assam ? If we were to look to the programme and deeds of the Ministry we find that they have done nothing as to suggest that the Ministers were bothering at all to face the problem of the province. Their activities have been directed not towards the good of the province but towards their own selfish ends. Sir, when fixing the salary I would request the hon. members to think what the people, who have sent them here, desire. Is it their wish that we, their representatives, should vote for such high salaries as proposed in the Bill and the amendment of Khan Sahib Sayidur Rahman. This question should be carefully considered before voting on this Bill and amendments. If we vote for higher salaries then we have been asked to support and we shall be not only showing great disrespect to our constituencies failing in duty but also shall be guilty of breach of trust.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: I do not think I need emphasise the fact that I belong to party which does not assess the worth of a man in terms of silver or gold. I support therefore, the amendment tabled by my friend hon. Mr. Das.

Sir, more than once on the floor of this House we have heard of the chest measurement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Although I am very much younger than him I have a chest measurement which could compare very favourably with his. But the present matter does not relate to the measurement of chest at all but the largeness of heart.

Sir, the spectre of class war is worrying the world and I can see that this spectre is looming larger and larger on the horizon of the country every day. The kind of expensive administration which has been sought to be imposed on this country even under the distinguished aegis of Provincial Autonomy, I fear, is calculated to precipitate the evil day, because I find this sort of administration will divorce holders of high offices from the masses of the people. I am not concerned and I do not bother for a moment about the aloofness of my hon. planting friends, an aloofness which they cultivate along with tea upon their estates, because after all they are birds of passage. They have come here for a career and when that career is ended they go back to their country to live or die in peace. I suppose however a special duty has been cast upon the autonomous ministry of this province to look at the whole question of the salary of ministers from an angle of vision different from theirs. It is very gratifying to know that we have today on the Council of Ministers at least two hon. gentlemen, I mean, the Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri and the Hon'ble Rev. Nichols-Roy who were in the past great advocates for and always expoused the cause for reduction of high salaries of Ministers. I therefore expect them to sympathise with the ideals that we have placed before the House, because these ideas are not prompted by any selfish ends. We may be charged with altruism and utopianism, but if the Hon'ble members of the Council of Ministry are such ardent advocates for the betterment of the condition of the masses as they protest it is expected of them that they will take up that attitude in the matter of their emoluments which will make the masses feel that they are in a line with and not aloof from them. Sir, I propose to read out an excerpt from a speech of Rev. Mr. Nichols-Roy :

"I say, Sir, we do not need to be guided by the man in the street. The man in the street is the man who ought to be taught. If we do not touch him and if we be guided by the man in the street, the administration cannot be run in the proper way. As a matter of principle I support this motion because it will reduce the cost of administration and it will be running on the right lines. It seems to me that there is no other way for us except to see that for the good and benefit of the country the cost of the administration should be reduced and that this be done by commencing with the salaries of the Ministers who are in the hands of the people and if the popular Ministers do not show an example we do not expect members of Government will take the lead".

My friend the Hon'ble Rev. Nichols-Roy, a little while ago tried to give the House an impression that at the time he was uttering those words, he was supporting a reduction of the salary of Ministers which was very much higher than what they are demanding now. But times were different then. Ministers saw the salaries which were enjoyed by their fellow brethren in the Cabinet the Executive Councillors and they felt that the Ministers should not be made to look small in the eyes of the Executive Councillors, that is why they always fought shy of all proposals for reduction of salaries because they wanted to lie with the Executive Councillors of living. But that position has happily ended. We are now our representatives who have been elected by the people and o are said to be responsible Ministers and I hope also responsive . "The reasons advanced by my friend Rev. Nichols-Roy then, stand n to-day." The Hon'ble Revenue Minister said in his unregenerate ommenting upon that speech of my Hon'ble friend Rev. Mr. s-Roy, and I echo his words to-day.

We have heard a great deal about retrenchment in this House. It has been said that this Council of Ministers will take up retrenchment proposals as early as they can and when their retrenchment proposals come up before the House it will be seen that some considerable saving have been made and the money made available for ameliorating the condition of the masses.

What were the views of my Hon'ble friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri in 1930 on this point ?

"If they are really bent upon having a reduction of expenditure should they not as popular representatives, as elected members of this Council, show an example to their own colleagues, show an example to their own subordinates, show an example to their own secretaries and show an example to other officers of Government by reducing their own salaries. If they pose as representatives of the people of the Province, should they not agree to a lower salary voluntarily and thus come to the rescue of the people ? Can they expect their secretaries who come from a long distance over the seas and whose standard of living in India must be admitted to somewhat higher to reduce their salaries ? Of what use any Retrenchment Committee be and on what ground shall we go and ask officers of the various Imperial Services to reduce their salaries ? We do not know what their economic conditions is in their own home and we do not know how far they are hard hit in the matter of their general finances. How can we ask these officer to reduce their salaries when we cannot get our own men, our own Ministers, to reduce theirs so as to bring the pay to a reasonable standard ?"

I do not find any better words than these to place before the House for their consideration upon this momentous issue. A suggestion has been thrown out that the Council of Ministers should request the Services to submit to a voluntary cut in their salaries. If Hon'ble Ministers do not set up an example themselves, how are the Government going to ask their servants to support proposals for voluntary cuts ?

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : From Rs.2,800 to Rs.2,500.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : I am coming to Rs.500 now and not Rs.2,500. Have a little patience please. Hear what the Hon'ble Revenue Minister said upon that. What was the attitude of my Hon'ble friend Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, in regard to this salary of Rs.500 a month ? That is very interesting. It is to be found in page 1043 in the Council proceedings of 1931 :—

"The hon. members may have doubtless heard that Mahatma Gandhi has said that the salary of Government servants should not exceed Rs.500 excepting in those cases where experts have got to be employed. In this House we have been rather accustomed to turn a deaf ear to what is said by that Great Man, I mean Mahatmaji. What I was saying just before we rose for lunch was when Mahatma Gandhi who is no longer described as a half naked seditious *fakhir* and who has been receiving ovations and princely receptions in diffe orth a England has prescribed Rs.500 as the maximum to be gi nent tabled non-expert Government servant, by what stretch of imagir. considered that Rs.2,000 per mensem would be too little for the rd of the Ministers of the Government of Assam ?" I am

These are the memorable words of my Hon'ble friend in re could the proposals put up by Mahatma Gandhi in respect of Ministers' sa not this country.

KHAN BAHADUR EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY : আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনের Chief Executive Officer এর বেতন কত?

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MUHAMMAD CHAUDHURY : On a point of information, Sir, what is the salary of the Chief Executive Officers of the Calcutta Corporation ?

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Have I made it too hot for him to want to migrate to Calcutta ?

"The Hon'ble Ministers ought to be grateful to the people who sent them up to this House. It is through the votes of the people that they have so far enjoyed the emoluments which they did not probably expect some three or four years ago. They have earned it, I suppose, with the sweat of other brows. But if there is any sense of gratitude and if there is any idea of gratefulness left, should they not now in consideration of the suffering of the people forego this small humble portion of the salary which is now being demanded of them ?"

Sir, it was in the year of grace 1931, only, a period of six years only has elasped since this expression of opinion was made, and what is the opinion we are confronted with to-day in this House ! The sadness and the badness of it.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI : I think, Sir, it is a closed chapter now.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA : Yes, a closed chapter indeed and I will also close this chapter presently. I quote my Hon'ble friend the Revenue Minister again.—If we could not persuade our own friends—our own countrymen—our own popular Ministers to give a part of their

salary for the good of the people, it is really a very disappointing state of things. I hope the Hon'ble Ministers who are now in exaltation at their hearts desire will realise the tone of disappointment, the tone of sadness with which I have now to speak", and having spoken so, Sir, I resume my seat.

BABU LALIT MOHAN KAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a representative of the poor people of the country, I feel it my duty to support the amendment moved by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. India is the poorest country in the world and Assam is perhaps the poorest province in it but still it has been compelled to bear the burden of the costliest administration.

Assam has already been converted into an insolvent province and the only course open to us to recoup the (former) financial position is to follow a drastic policy of retrenchment.

It is said, Sir, that we cannot touch the fat salaries of the Indian Civil Service and the like, why should we then fall upon the salaries of our indigenous Ministers? Well, Sir, let us remember that these fat salaried officers are here for earning money alone, but our Hon'ble Ministers are pledge bound to look to the interests of their electors and not to any personal gain, like businessmen. Do our Ministers like to furnish their duty only by charging a huge sum for their services while thousands of their country men go without two meals a day and groan under the burden of heavy taxes.

The Hon'ble Ministers are well aware of the miserable plight of their countrymen. They are victims of frequent flood and famine and they live in villages in the most insanitary condition. They cannot educate their children nor can they have drinking water to soak their perching throat in the hottest season. Do our Ministers like to spend the money of this people in lavish drink and dishes without proposing any redress to their grievances?

Lastly I like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Ministers to the result of the last election. They have seen how the people gave their verdict against the fat salaried representatives holding offices under the good old days of Diarchy. I, therefore, request them that they should in all fairness follow the noble example that has been set by the Hon'ble the Speaker of the House as well as by the Hon'ble Ministers of some other provinces.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDALOI: Mr. Speaker. Sir, if my cry had been in the midst of wilderness and if I knew that my cry would not be heard even then, Sir, I would raise this cry against the scale of salaries fixed in the Bill. I have found, Sir, that some attempts have been made to misinterpret the principles of the Congress in regard to salaries. Sir, against this allowance of Rs.250 which has been fixed by the Working Committee in addition to the salaries, it has been said that we might revise this again and bring it to a higher level. I consider it necessary for me to read that portion of the resolution of the Working Committee in order to show that the object of the Congress is never towards the rise of salaries but towards making it as low as possible consistent with efficiency and consistent with the service that they will render to the country. Sir, that portion of the resolution is: "The Working Committee is of opinion that in accordance with the Congress policy, salaries and allowances of Ministers and others should be reduced to the lowest possible limit consistent with efficiency. The Committee realises however that immediate and full application of the principle is not easy and it will not be possible to introduce desired changes at the stage in view of the varying circumstances in different provinces. The Committee does not usually lay down hard and fast rule." "Again

Minister may not accept Rs.100 as house allowance if he gets a house of his own." Therefore it is not as my hon. friend Khan Shahib Maulavi Savidur Rahman says that there is a tendency to increase the Congress salaries on the other hand the tendency is towards decrease. The whole attitude is based on the idea of sacrifice, and if the hon. members of this House take that aspect of the matter into consideration, I think, Sir, that they would not only not find any fault with the scale of salary that has been fixed for the Ministers and others by the Congress but would very rightly agree to the proposal that has been put forward by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das. It would be found there that we have an excess of Rs.50 in the amendment. The amendment was given before the resolution of the Working Committee was out and therefore that increase. But as I have said. Sir, the whole idea is based on how far a man can sacrifice for the good of his country and for the cause of the poor people. Sir, we do not fail to realise that Ministers should be above want. I agree, Sir, with Mr. Hockenhull when he says that the salary of the Ministers should be adequate but what that adequacy is, is a matter of opinion. It is a matter which must relate to the condition of the country in which we live. What may appear really inadequate to Mr. Hockenhull may be perfectly adequate to an ordinary normal man in our country. In view of that my submission to the House is that, the fixation of salary with an allowance is not really inadequate. It really means some sacrifice on the part of the Ministers and that is exactly what the Congress is demanding of those who serve the country. Sir, in this connection I would also like to give an idea of what these Ministers will cost us, in terms of population in our province and I will also try to show what other provinces are paying in this connection. It will be seen that in the Congress provinces of Madras and Bombay, they are paid two pies and four pies respectively. In Bengal which is paying a decent salary to the Ministers, they also do not pay more than nine pies per undred of population; but in Assam, the standard of salary that has been put forward in the Bill would mean a payment of 22 pies per hundred of population. Sir, it will also be seen that even if the Bengal standard is adhered to, the amendment that has been put forward by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das will represent the actual amount which should be paid to our Ministers.

Sir, it will be seen that even if the Bengal standard is adhered to, it will be found that the amendment that has been put forward by my friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das will represent the actual amount which should be paid under the Bengal standard.

Then, Sir, I do not propose to say anything in regard to the matter of retrenchment; enough has been said in the course of the debate. We have found retrenchment has always come, if they come at all, on the poor clerks, peons and orderlies, and that I think is only due to the fact that there is community of feeling between the highly paid officers (*hear, hear*). If real retrenchment is to take place, people who can sacrifice should be made to sacrifice. Sir, it is the duty of the Hon'ble Minister to take the lead in this matter.

Sir, I feel that in the fight for the acceptance of the Congress principle over the salaries we have really the exhibition of that eternal fight of the spirit over the matter, the fight of the spririt "to give thyself away for others" against the spirit "to take from others as much as you can".

If we just pause for a moment and think of the lives of great men and prophets I think, Sir, the Congress principle was always held good by them and should even now be acted upon as far as possible. Sir, the kingdom of God, which Lord Jesus wanted to bring to this earth, was the kingdom of poor, for the poor, if not by the poor. The same truth was preached and practised by the great Prophet and four Caliphs who succeeded him. Sir, I will give examples of this spirit of 'give thyself away,' in those great Caliphs it is very well known to that section of the House opposite to me how the great Abu Bakr lived, how the great Omar lived. They led big armies of conquest, that had taken the glory of Islam to the shores of the Mediterranean at that time; and yet how humble a life they lead.'

Then, Sir, we have not to go very far, to the past to find another living example. I believe, we all know the life of the great Emperor Aurangzeb. He used to live by selling the caps which he made with his own hand, and yet he was a mighty great Emperor. Sir, the Congress wants the country to accept that principle, the spirit of sacrifice. But at the same time we have not been blind to the wants of men. Human flesh will have its demand, and we want to satisfy our wants. I repeat, Sir.

I consider that a salary of Rs.500 with allowances is quite sufficient to satisfy reasonable human want. With these few words, Sir, I support the amendment of my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: Sir, I had an amendment in my name and I wish to place an explanation before the House for its withdrawal.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member has not been called upon to give any explanation.

MAULAVI ABDUR RAHMAN: But, Sir, I want to explain my position. I also think it necessary to express my views in regard to the Bill that is now rolling before the House. It has been said, on the floor of the House that the present Government is a popular Government, *viz.*, a democratic Government, and I think, Sir, a democratic Government must have some policy so as to meet the wishes of the people in general. Then, again, it has also been said that our present Ministers have not shown much regard to the popular wishes of the people in this country.

Sir, as regards the merits of the Bill as well as the amendments which are before the House, much has been said, and I only want to let this House know that the high salaries used to be drawn by the previous members of the Cabinet are not appreciated and cannot be appreciated by the present democratic Government. Of course the amount that has been proposed in the Government Bill is also exorbitant, and as regards my view I gave out that the salaries should be Rs 1,500 and Rs. 1,000. But the party to which I belong has given me the mandate that I should withdraw my amendment. My next support therefore, should go for the next higher one.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is the day of departure. Before we leave, Sir, we have been provided with a new sauce and a palatable sauce no doubt by the hon. supporters of the Bill.

Sir, day in and day out we have heard three terms "consideration", "enquiry committees", "favourable consideration" from the Hon'ble Ministers. We have to-day heard from the hon. supporters of the Bill three other words "dignity", "adequacy" and "efficiency". I am thankful to those members for breaking the monotony of all these days and introducing three other words into the arena of the House. Sir, about the meaning of

these three words—about the standard attached to these three words—we find there are two different ideology running. The real issue is whether we are going to adopt the Indian standard of life, Indian meaning of dignity, adequacy and efficiency, or whether we are going to take the shackles of about 200 years—the lessons of slavery which we have learnt from our white masters, for which my hon. friends Mr. Hockenhull and Company on my left are to some extent responsible.

Sir, the main question is whether we are going to replace European dress, European motor cars, and European standard of dignity, by Indian standard. That is the real question at issue. We are here, Sir, to represent Indian standard of life, honour and dignity, and in that view of the matter the amendment which has been brought forward by my hon. friend Srijut Omeo Kumar Das represents fully that outlook of life which we hold.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: Why do you give a motor car then ?

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: You are again at your old game. I have only 3 minutes more, and I beseech you not to interrupt ; you are a good agent no doubt.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI: But you are inconsistent.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI: Now, Sir, the question is that these officers are living in a popular Government and the administration should reflect the condition of the country and the popular opinion of the country. These officers should be accepted in the spirit of service and should not be meant for adventurers coming from one end of the province to another for monetary considerations. Now, let us see whether the salary which the Bill proposes to give to the Ministers is commensurate with the condition of the people. We all know that 6 pies *per capita* is the monthly income of the people of Assam. Does this administration in any way represent this ? Does the salary proposed in the Bill represent this in any way ? This is the real test by which the posterity will judge the first administration under the provincial autonomy. You are the first occupiers of offices under the new regime, and it is up to you to set an example to the others.

Again, it has been admitted by all that the officers of the Indian Civil Service are very highly paid, and it is up to the Hon'ble Ministers to set an example by voluntarily taking a salary in keeping with the standard of Indian living. I appeal to them to accept a reduced scale of pay, so that they may put pressure to permanent services to reduce theirs.

Again, Sir, coming to the question of other provinces. In Bengal we find that the previous Ministers used to get Rs.64,000 per annum, and now the Chief Minister has got Rs.36,000 only. There has been a substantial reduction, but in this province, which has been rightly termed "benighted" by many men, the reduction is from Rs. 42,000 to Rs. 33,600.

Again, if we look back and direct our attention to other provinces, we do not find there such a disparity between the emoluments of the Chief Minister and the other Ministers not to speak of the Congress Province even in the non-Congress provinces where no difference exists, the difference is not more than Rs.500. I do not know what special duty, what special responsibility the Hon'ble Chief Minister has to undertake for which he is going to get such a larger salary than the other Ministers to the extent of Rs. 1,000. I fail to realise the cause of this discrimination I would like to be enlightened on this point.

Again, in Japan and Italy the salary of Premiers is not more than Rs.1,200 and the income *per capita* is not much higher there than here. Before I conclude I would like to refer to one factor. My hon. friend Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman referred to the new love which led Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to leave the Moslems but I would like to ask him what prompted many other hon. gentlemen, including the august Khan Sahib and the three Hon'ble Ministers to leave their own party and join the Muslim League. What is the new love here, Sir ? Many things have happened under the cover of darkness of night of which the less said the better.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI KERAMAT ALI : Muslims are all Muslims.

BABU DAKSHINA RANJAN GUPTA CHAUDHURI : So I would request them to rise to the occasion and of their own accord express their willingness to accept a salary which will be adequate and which will keep their dignity according to Indian standards of living, and I hope they will not forget that they are also children of the soil.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief. There are only two issues before the House ; one is the Congress ideal of Rs.500 for the Ministers with a little bit of emoluments in the shape of allowances ; the other issue is the amendment proposed by my hon. friend Khan Sahib Saiyidur Rahman. Sir, throughout this debate I have listened patiently for some new arguments, but I have listened in vain. There has not been a single argument which has not been heard in this Hall during the last 30 days. If the country was prepared to accept the Congress ideal which has now been held out, we would have had the Congress party sitting on this side of the House to day, but the fact is that the country has not accepted the Congress ideal, the majority in the country is not of that opinion. One of the hon. members from that bench told us that they are not ready for a sprint from that bench to this, but I can tell him that in this sprint he will not be alone ; there are many other sprinters eager for the race from other quarters and who knows that they will not enact a Louis-Farr fight in this Hall of the Parliament of Assam. Some hon. members discussed the merits and demerits of the past and present Ministry ; I will not go to that length. He says he is disappointed that the Ministry have not produced any new scheme. He is not disappointed at that but he is disappointed that they have not accepted the Congress ideal, but we find that the Gandhi ideal has not been accepted even by many of the hon. members who have joined the Congress ranks.

Sir, my hon. friend Mr. Hockenhull was enquiring whether the Ministers are going to announce anything in the shape of accepting a reduced salary. On behalf of the Council of Ministers I announce that we are prepared to accept the amendment proposed by Khan Sahib Maulavi Saiyidur Rahman.

SRIJUT MAHI CHANDRA BORA : On the point of information, Sir, the salaries of the Ministers have been reduced by Rs.300 each and that means there is a saving of Rs. 1,500 a month. Does the present Ministry propose to provide for another Minister ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : If my hon friend applies, I will then give him the proper reply.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA : Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister inviting applications for Ministers ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : When there is a vacancy, there will be many other applications then from the hon. members.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Did His Excellency the Governor invite applications when he formed the present Ministry ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is a question for His Excellency to reply.

The amendment of Srijut Omeo Kumar Das was then put to the House.

The House divided with the following result:—

AYES—40.

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Babu Balaram Sircar.
5. Srijut Beliram Das.
6. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
7. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
8. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
9. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
10. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah
11. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
12. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.
13. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
14. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
15. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
16. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
17. Srijut Jadav Prasad Chaliha.
18. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
19. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
20. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
21. Babu Kalachand Roy.
22. Srijut Kameswar Das.
23. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.

NOES—64.

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
3. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
4. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
5. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
6. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
7. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
8. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
9. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
10. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.
11. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
12. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
13. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
14. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
15. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
16. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
17. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
18. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
19. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
20. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
21. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
22. Maulavi Ashraf Uddin Md. Chaudhury.
23. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
24. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
25. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
26. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
27. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
28. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
29. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
30. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
31. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri.
32. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
33. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
34. Maulavi Manarrof Ali Laskar.

24. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
25. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma.
26. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
27. Srijut Lakhesvar Barooah.
28. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
29. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
30. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
31. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
32. Srijut Paramananda Das.
33. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
34. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
35. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
36. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
37. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
38. Babu Sibendra Chandra Biswas.
39. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
40. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
35. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
36. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
37. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
38. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
39. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
40. The Hon'ble Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
41. Col. A. B. Beddow.
42. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
43. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
44. Mr. W. R. Faull.
45. Mr. W. Fleming.
46. Mr. B. I. Barry.
47. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
48. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
49. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
50. Miss Mavis Dunn.
51. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
52. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
53. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
54. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
55. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
56. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
57. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
58. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
59. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
60. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
61. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
62. Mr. P. Parida
63. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
64. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

Ayes being 40 and Noes 64, the amendment was lost.

The Hon'ble the speaker: The question is that in clause No. 2 of the Bill the figures " 2,500 " shall be substituted for the figures " 2,800 " and in the same clause for the figures " 1,800 " the figures " 1,500 " shall be substituted.

The motion was carried.

SRIJUT PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Does the section stand, Sir, as amended ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I am coming to that.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that the clause as amended do stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, under the direction of the Chair I have drafted an explanation to be put in after clause 2. The explanation is as follows :—The term Chief Minister means the Minister who is entrusted by His Excellency the Governor to form a Council of Ministers and who is so described in the Rules of Business of the Provincial Government.

I beg, Sir, to move that after clause 2 this explanation be inserted.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: Can this explanation be added now, Sir ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: This amendment is only to explain a term. It is within the discretion of the Chair whether to accept that amendment or not. To make the Bill self-contained on my suggestion the Hon'ble Minister wants to add the explanation.

The Motion was put by the Chair.

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: Will not the difference in salaries prove who is the Chief Minister?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But we are passing an Act.

The motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that the explanation do stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The title and preamble of the Bill do form part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Ministers' Salaries Bill, 1937, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Before we proceed to the next item of business, is it the desire of House that it should stand adjourned for some time ?

MR. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: I suggest that the Hon'ble Ministers should entertain us to-night as we have passed their salary Bill (*laughter*).

The House was adjourned to 5 minutes past 6.

The Assam President's Salary Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam President's Salary Bill, 1937, be considered clause by clause.

(After a pause.)

I beg, Sir, to move that clause 2 of the Assam President's Salary Bill, 1937, do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was put and carried.)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that the Short Title and Preamble to the Bill do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried.)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam President's Salary Bill, 1937, be passed.

(The motion was put and carried.)

The Assam Deputy President's Salary Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Deputy President's Salary Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration clause by clause and that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.

(The motion was put and carried.)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that Short Title and Preamble do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried:)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Deputy President's Salary Bill, 1937, be passed.

(The motion was put and carried.)

The Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration clause by clause and that from sub-clause 2 of clause 1 to clause 19 do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was put and carried.)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that the Short Title and the Preamble do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried).

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1937, be passed.

(The motion was put and carried.)

The Assam Provincial Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Provincial Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration clause by clause and the clause 2 of the Bill do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was put.)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are some amendments to this clause. The first amendment stands in the name of Srijut Dakshinaranjan Gupta Chaudhury who is absent. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua: To move his motion.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got an amendment to this Bill but before I move the amendment I beg to bring to the notice of the House that I do not want to make any amendment as regards sub-clause 1 of clause 2, of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is not going to move that amendment.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: I am not going to move the amendment, as regards sub-clause (2) of clause 2, *i.e.*, any of the offices shown in the schedule to this Bill excepting the office of the Mauzadars—that is to say all other persons shown in the schedule will be qualified excepting the Mauzadars.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member wants that sub-clause 2 be omitted

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: I do not want to omit that, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member wants that words 'Parliamentary be omitted'.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: No, Sir, I want to limit the scope of the amendment, I want to say that any offices shown in the schedule excepting the office of the mauzadars shall be retained that is I want the Mauzadars to be disqualified to stand as candidate to the Legislature.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That means that from the whole amendment the schedule under sub-clause 2 be omitted.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: I do not want to omit the whole schedule. I want to omit the whole excepting the word 'Mauzadars' so that the Mauzadars will be disqualified to stand as candidates.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Does the hon. member want to disqualify the Mauzadars ?

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : Yes, Sir.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Then the hon. member wants that item No. 1 of the schedule be omitted. I think I can allow this amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : We have no objection.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I have also no objection.

SRIJUT RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : I beg, Sir, to move that in item No. 1 in the schedule the words 'Mauzadars' be omitted.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : Sir, I am prepared to accept the amendment but on different grounds namely that there is no disqualification against the Mauzadars under the Government of India Act.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Then the word 'Mauzadars' in item No.1 of the schedule to sub-clause 2 of the Bill be omitted.

It was carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : There are some other amendments. Next comes the amendment of Srijut Ramnath Das. Is he going to move that ?

SRIJUT RAMNATH DAS : I do not like to move that, Sir.

SRIJUT RABI CHANDRA KACHARI : I also do not want to move my amendment.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri may move.

THE HON'BLE SRIJUT ROHINI KUMAR CHAUDHURI : I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Provincial Legislature (Removal of Disqualifications) Bill, 1937, be passed including the schedule as amended which should also form part of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The clause to the Assam Provincial Legislature (Removal of Disqualification) Bill, 1937, including the schedule as amended be formed part of the Bill.

It was carried.

The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The motion moved is that the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I beg to oppose this motion on the ground that provisions of rule 49, with the proviso thereto, has not been complied with.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Will the hon. member explain it.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI : I will read the whole rule.—When a Bill is introduced or on some subsequent occasion, the member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to the Bill namely :—

(*a*) that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly either at once or at some future day to be then mentioned ; or

(*b*) that it be referred to a Select Committee ; or

(*c*) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion there on.

Provided that no such motion shall be made until after copies of the Bill have been made available for the use of members and that any member may object to any such motion being made unless copies of the Bill have been so available for seven days before the motion is made and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker, in his discretion, allows the motion to be made.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: When did the hon. member get the copy ?

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I received the copy on the 27th, Sir. It has been published in the extraordinary gazette, dated the 27th.

I have one other ground to submit. They had 26 days from the beginning of this session for the introduction of this Bill for discussion in this House. I do not know, Sir, why this Bill has been tabled so late. The Bill involves a new principle. The public should get an opportunity of expressing thier opinion before the members of this House may accept the Bill in its entirety. In view of this, Sir, I submit the Bill should not be taken up for discussion immediately and that it may be taken up next session.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, it is quite true the Bill was placed on the table of the hon. members on the 27th, and therefore we have covered including to-day, six days instead of seven. But, Sir, the Speaker has got a discretion to allow the motion.

As regards the charge of delay and bringing in the Bill at the last moment, I have already made it clear that it was due to the fact that I wanted to hear the views of the House in regard to this matter which was bound to come up during the discussion on the resolution, which was tabled by my hon. friend Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan. Sir, he wanted to move that there should be a reduction in the daily allowance that is given to the hon. members. I thought, Sir, that resolution—which was probably No.16—would come up for discussion, and I would get the views of the hon. members of the House. As I was subsequently informed that the resolution was withdrawn, and when I found in many other provinces such salaries Bill had been passed by the Legislatures, and Government of India Act also allows this, I started drafting the Bill. There was a discussion as to the date from which this Bill, if passed into Act, should operate. Our legal adviser was of the opinion that it would take effect only from the day the Bill is passed, and there could not be any retrospective effect. My attention was, however, drawn to the press reports of Bengel Act where they made it applicable from April. Therefore, Sir, I had to wire to Bengal to get the exact information as to whether it was correct or not.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What about other provinces ?

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: In some other provinces I am told retrospective effect has been given.

Sir, only on account of satisfying myself on the point that was raised by our Legal Remembrancer, this delay in publishing the Bill was caused. I do not know how my hon. friend can object—whether he is objecting on principle or he wants eliciting public opinion when his party has tabled an amendment.

I understand, Sir, even the Congress Working Committee has allowed Members' salary at the rate of Rs.75 per month—or Rs.900 a year. They have also sanctioned a daily allowance of Rs.2/8/- per diem. So I find, Sir, the principles of my Bill are very nearly the same as the principles which guided the Congress Working Committee in settling the emoluments of the Members. I hope that my hon. friends opposite, after they have known the verdict of the Congress Working Committee, would not oppose the consideration of this Bill.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I submit, Sir, that in different provinces conditions vary, and in this matter a discretion has been left to the provincial parties to exercise their own judgment. At the time when we were elected there was absolutely no question of the members' accepting any salary.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: But there is the provision in the Act.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We understand that very well, Sir, and all that we propose to say that the principle of the Bill should be understood by the electors before this salary is paid to their representatives. The Bill is drafted to have a retrospective effect, and I cannot see how much harm would be caused in postponing the consideration of the Bill. Sir, we are getting daily allowance already, and I do not think we will be in difficulties just now, even with the present daily allowance that is given to us.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: How will the opinion of the people help the hon. member ?

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: In determining in what way amendments would be put. I am not opposed to the Bill as a whole when the Act lays down that there should be a Bill for the salary members, but what that amount ought to be should be left to the consideration of the people.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Have not amendments been tabled by the hon. member's party ?

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: As I said, Sir, that has been done without any consultation with the electors whom we represent.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: Sir, we have no objection to taking this Bill into consideration just now ; it is nothing coming as a surprise. The Government of India Act was passed long ago, and the question was before the whole India for a very long time. As amendments have also been forthcoming from the Congress party I do not see any reason why they should oppose the consideration.

TME HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There is that rule.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI: As regards that rule, it is your prerogative to allow it to be taken into consideration, and I think, Sir, from the facts that have been placed before you, it is a good case to make an exception

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I should like to be very brief in opposing the consideration of this Bill. I do not understand the idea of rushing through this Bill. We are going to meet again in November when we can fully and properly consider the Bill. The Assembly members have getting their travelling and daily allowances, and I do not know what emergency necessity has actuated the Government for getting this Bill passed so hurriedly.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: If the Bill is to be passed this session, it must be hurried through.

MR. FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As a matter of fact, Sir, I have personally not thought of submitting suitable amendments to the clauses.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: What is the harm if I allow the hon. member to do it now ?

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I add a word, Sir ? We have grave objection on principle, to the procedure that is being adopted in introducing this Bill. This House has the privilege of having copies of any Bill 7 days previous to its introduction. Though this Bill in itself is a

harmless one, but it will create a bad precedent for other dangerous Bill being rush through this House in this manner. I do not understand what is the emergency of giving away the privilege of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: With regard to the objection that has been taken by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, it has been admitted by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that the provisions of the proviso to rule 49 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, Part II, have not been complied with. There was no doubt publication of the Bill in the Gazette, but that is not sufficient so far as the provisions of this rule are concerned. So there was the necessity to place copies of the Bill on the table of the members 7 days before the introduction of the Bill.

In a similar case which arose in the Central Legislative Assembly on the 6th of September 1928, in connection with the Public Safety Bill, the then President of the Assembly, the late Mr. Patel, did not allow the Bill to be taken into consideration on account of a similar defect. Under the rules of the Central Legislative Assembly, which are almost the same as here, with the exception that there three days' notice is required and not seven days' as here. His ground was that that was a very important Bill and unless the provisions of the Act were complied with he was not prepared to suspend the operation of the Standing Order and allow the House to discuss that Bill. Of course in this case it has been said that this also is an important Bill and public opinion was required to be gathered, but having regard to the fact that the Bill was published in the Gazette for public opinion, and also having regard to the fact that the other provinces have passed similar Bills giving emoluments to members, it cannot now be urged that there is the importance of having public opinion gathered so far as this Bill is concerned. I find from the list of amendments that the Congress party have also tabled an amendment which goes to the extreme limit of fixing the salary at Re.1 per annum.

With regard to the Public Safety Bill, the late Mr. Patel, disallowed the consideration of the Bill also on the ground that there was no formal request made to him for taking up the Bill, but here in this case a request has been made to me to suspend the operation of the provision of rule 49, and therefore, I am disposed to dispense with the operation of this Rule, and I am disposed also to give hon. members leave to table amendments on the floor of the House so that amendments of every kind may be discussed.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I be permitted to enquire whether this will be creating a precedent?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Having ragard to the peculiar nature of the Bill I have suspended the operation of the rule 49 in this case as a very special case, but it will cartainly not create a precedent. I quite appreciate the objection that there ought not to have been such a delay in introducing this Bill. It is only under exceptional circumstances that I have allowed this Bill to be discussed, but hon. members must remember that in future I shall never allow such a request to weigh with me in connection with other Bills.

SRIJUT GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I bow to the ruling of the Chair but I would like to point out in all these matters discretion has always been left to the Provincial Congress Committees to decide upon the line of action which is to be taken and that implies a consultation with our electorates. We gave them an undertaking that we will not be responsible for increasing the cost of administration or increase the costs in any way, but as for adopting the programme as other provinces has done in regard to the members' salary we are not in a position to say anything at present. That is our difficulty.

HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : With regard to what has been said by ...er of the Opposition I would like to say that I have also seen a re... of the Congress Working Committee in which there is the direction that in provinces in which the Congress has not been able to take up Ministry if members' salaries are fixed the members are to abide by the principles laid down by the Congress Committee. They have fixed a salary of Rs.75 per mensem. If the salary is more than Rs.75 (*i.e.*, Rs.100) there has been a definite direction given that the members will be at liberty to draw Rs.100, keeping Rs.75 for themselves and making over the balance to the Working Committee. Is that not this the direction of the Working Committee ?

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I should be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words on the provisions of this Bill. I do not deny that the time and energy that have to be spent over the Council work by the hon. members of this House have been greater than what it was before nor do I deny that with the increased number of members the volume of work has also increased. It is also no doubt a fact that by attending the session of the Assembly, specially one like the present budget session, many hon. members have to undergo considerable financial loss as well as dislocation of business, and for these consideration hon. members can rightly claim a salary. But, Sir, if we look to the other side of the picture, I am afraid I cannot feel justified in supporting the Bill which provides for a salary for the hon. members at the present moment. To me it seems that it is most inopportune to pass such a Bill like this at this moment. Hon. members have come here as representatives of the different constituencies. More than 90 per cent. of electorates have many crying needs, and many urgent demands that are required to be attended to, but, Sir, what have we done ? We have every one of us, got a long catalogue of public grievances in our pockets. Now that the budget is passed, how far can we say that we have been successful in redressing those grievances. Can we say honestly what we have done anything appreciable towards the amelioration of the poor electorates whom we represent here ? So, Sir, if at this stage we ourselves accept some salary and the amount of that salary will amount to more than a lakh, what justification can we give to the constituency for our action ? If we do not accept any salary, we may at least have some excuse to tell them that for want of funds we could not remove many of their grievances.

Moreover, Sir, there is a unanimous demand in this House for drastic retrenchment in all the departments of administration. We are all crying in for retrenchment and for more money. So, Sir, I think it would be most inadvisable, for the hon. members of the House to accept any salary at this present moment. Of course if our financial condition improves and if we can satisfy the demands of our constituency at least to an appreciable extent, I think we can have some justification to take a salary. Until we do that and until our provincial finances improve I would appeal to the hon. members not to press for the passing of this Bill at this stage. With these words, Sir, I oppose the consideration of the Bill.

MAULANA ABDUL HAMID KHAN : Sir, গত এক মাস যাবৎ আমাদের সম্মুখে অনেক কিছু সমস্যা আসিয়াছিল এবং অনেকে অনেক ভাবে কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন হ্রাস করার সম্বন্ধে অনেক কিছু লম্বা লম্বা বক্তৃতা দিয়াছেন। আমাদের বেতন সম্বন্ধে আমরা কি করিব সেই সমস্যা আমাদের সম্মুখে বর্ত্তমান উপস্থিত। বর্ত্তমান দায়িত্বশীল

গবর্ণমেণ্ট জনসাধারণের কাছে নূতন এমন কোন জিনিষ পেশ করিতে পা
যাহাতে তাহারা বুঝিতে পারে যে প্রভিন্সিয়েল অটনমির দ্বারা আমরা নূতন
পাইলাম শুধু একটা জিনিষ উপস্থিত করা হইয়াছে যেটা আগে ছিলনা সেটা হই ছে
জনসাধারনের স্বাধীন প্রতিনিধি দিগকে আজ দাসত্বে পরিণত করা হইতেছে। প্রজা
সাধারণের নিকট আমরা কি বলিব? অনেক কিছুইত তাহাদের জন্য পাশ হইয়া
আছে। বাধ্যতামূলক শিক্ষা, ঋণ লাঘব আইন, রাস্তাঘাট প্রজাদের জন্য কিছুই
হয় নাই বা হইবারও আশা নাই, এই সংবাদের জন্যই কি আমাদের জন্য ১০০৲ টাকার
বেতন ও মোটা ভাতার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। আমরা যখন বাড়ী ফিরিয়া যাইব তখন তাহারা
আসিয়া বলিবে যে ইলেকশনের সময় আপনারা প্রজার উপকার করিবেন বলিয়া
প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন এখন দেখিতেছি শুধু নিজের সুবিধা নিয়ে বাড়ীতে আসিয়াছেন।
পূর্ণ একমাস কি করিলাম জিজ্ঞাসা করিলে বলিতে বাধ্য হইব যে মিনিষ্টারের বেতন
ধার্য্য করিয়াছি, বড় বড় আমোলাতন্ত্রের মোটা মোটা বেতন ধার্য্য করিয়াছি এবং সঙ্গে
সঙ্গে আমাদের জন্যও কিছু করিয়া আনিয়াছি; কিন্তু তোমাদের জন্য কিছুই নিয়া
আসিতে পারি নাই। এই দেশের শতকরা ৯৫ জন নিরক্ষর প্রজাসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি
হইয়া যদি আমাদের স্বার্থ লইয়াই ব্যস্ত থাকি তবে সেটা বড়ই দুঃখের কথা হইবে।
আমাদের এসেম্‌ব্লিতে দুই মাস কাজ হইবে কিন্তু আমরা ১২ মাস বেতন ভোগ করিব
ইহার কারণ বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। আমাদের কেহ হয়ত ব্যবসা করিবেন এবং অন্য
কেহ হয়ত ওকালতি করিয়া পয়সা উপার্জ্জন করিবেন। জগতে এমন কোন চাকরী
দেখি নাই যে দুই মাস কাজ করিয়া ১২ মাসের বেতন সংগ্রহ করা যায়। আমি আশা
করি আপনারা এ সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ করিয়া বিবেচনা করিবেন এবং জনসাধারণের যাবতীয়
সুখ সুবিধার দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া নিজেদের কর্ত্তব্য নির্দ্ধারণ করিবেন ঐ রূপ বেতন
গ্রহণ করিলে সমাজের নিকট আপনারা বিশ্বাস ঘাতক হইবেন।

SRIJUT HALADHAR BHUYAN: সভাপতি ডাঙবীয়া মিনিষ্টাৰৰ দৰমহাৰ (salary) বিষয়ৰ সময়ত শুনি ছিলো যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে টকা দিছে—তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধাচৰণ কৰাটো ঠিক হোৱা নাই—এই বুলি কোৱা ফালৰ পৰা আপত্তি চলিছিল। কিন্তু আচল কথাটো হৈছে—বঙ্গলা ভাষাত এটা চলতি কথা অর্থাৎ এটা adage আছে—"মাসী কত রং জান তুমি? ধান ভান, চিড়া কুট, বাজাও বাঁসী"। 'মাসী' মানে হৈছে mother's sister বা মাহী। বৃটিছ পলিয়েমেণ্টৰ বৰ জীয়াৰী হৈছে বৃটিছ ইম্পিৰিয়েলিজিম অর্থাৎ বৃটিছ সম্রাজ্যবাদ আৰু তাৰ সৰু জীয়াৰী হৈছে প্রভিন্সিয়েল গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট বিলাক। সেই কাৰণে প্রভিন্সিয়েল গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক 'মাসী' অর্থাৎ mother's sister বোলা যায়। মাসী তুমি ধান ভান, চিড়া কুট', অর্থাৎ মাসী তুমি ধানো বানা আৰু চিৰাও খুন্দা। 'তুমি কত রং জান' অর্থাৎ তুমি কিমান তামাচা জানা। 'তুমি ধান বান, চিড়া কুট, বাজাও বাঁসী' অর্থাৎ তুমি ধানো বানা, চিৰাও খুন্দা আৰু বাহীও বজোৱা। যি সময়ত এই দেশৰ মানুহৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে জন্মিয়েই ৪৫৲ টকা ধাৰৰ বোজা লৱলগাত পৰে, যি সময়ত মানুহে দুবেলা

দুসাজ পেট ভৰাই থাবলৈ নাপায়, সেই সময়ত মিনিষ্টাৰৰ দৰমহা হাজাৰ হাজাৰ আৰু অফিচাৰ সকলৰ দৰমহা হাজাৰ হাজাৰ ঠিক হৈ গৈছে। আকৌ মেম্বাৰ সকলৰ নিমিত্তে নতুনকৈ দৰমহা স্থিৰ কৰাৰ অৰ্থ হৈছে বাঁহী বজাই মুগ্ধ কৰি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক support অৰ্থাৎ সমৰ্থন কৰোৱা। আৰু সেই বাঁহীৰ মতে শুনিয়েই আমাৰ মেম্বাৰ সকলৰ tendency ও সেই ফালে যোৱা যেন দেখা গৈছে অৱশ্যে এই কথাত যদি অনাৰেবোল হাউচে দুখ পায় তেন্তে মই সিবিলাকক ক্ষমা খুজিছো। আচল কথা হৈছে বৃটিছ ইম্পিৰিয়েলিজিম ঠিক থাকিব লাগে আৰু বৃটিছ ইম্পিৰিয়েলিজিমক দৃঢ়কৈ গঢ়ি তুলিব লাগে। নহলে বৃটিছ সাম্ৰাজ্য তিষ্টিব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু যি সকলে এই বিল হাজিৰ কৰিছে তেখেত সকলে এটা কথা ভবা নাই। বৰ্ত্তমান world politicsৰ ফালে চালে দেখা যায় যে বৃটিছৰ বজাৰ কেউফালৰ পৰা চাপি আহিছে—কেৱল, ভাৰত বৰ্ষতেইহে তেওঁবিলাকৰ ব্যবসায়ৰ স্থল আছে। এই সাম্ৰাজ্যবাদৰ শোষণত ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ মানুহৰ শৰীৰৰ বক্ত মংস একেবাৰেই হীন হৈ গৈছে আৰু বৃটীছৰ বস্ত্ৰ কিনিবলৈ ভাৰতীয় মানুহৰ শক্তি সামৰ্থ্য নাইকিয়া হৈ গৈছে। সেই কাৰণে লৰ্ড লিনলিথগ'য়ে এটা ঢো তুলিছে যে ভাৰতীয় মানুহৰ অৱস্থা ভাল কৰিব লাগে। এইটো যে আমাৰ মৰমত কৰিছে এনে নহয়—তেওঁবিলাকৰ ভালৰ নিমিত্তেহে কৰিছে। ভাৰতীয় বাইজৰ অৱস্থা যে অলপ ভাল কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণ সেয়ে নহলে বৃটিছৰ বস্ত্ৰ আৰু ইয়াত বিক্ৰি নহয় আৰু হবও নোৱাৰে। এই ফালৰ পৰা চালে বাইজৰ অৱস্থা ভাল কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ উচিত আছিল, আৰু তাৰ নিমিত্তে তওঁলোকে বেচিকৈ টকা পয়চা খৰচ কৰিব লাগিছিল। কিন্তু দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ বিষয় এইযে বাইজৰ ভালৰ নিমিত্তে বিশেষ একো কৰা নহল যোৱা cut motion আৰু মেম্বাৰ সকলৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা ইয়াকে ভালকৈ বুজা গৈছে যে নীতি হিচাপে বৰ্ত্তমান বাজেট বাইজৰ নিমিত্তে একো ভাল হোৱা নাই। মই কওঁ যে ইও বাইজৰ দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ কাৰণেহে; নহলে আজি মিনিষ্টাৰৰ salary বিলৰ সমন্ধে যি বিলাক সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাব আছিল, সেই বিলাকনো কি যাদু মন্ত্ৰৰ বলত কেনেকৈ উৰগল? অৱশ্যে এইটো স্বীকাৰ কৰিব লাগিব যে due to the influence of stars অৰ্থাৎ গ্ৰহ দোষতে এনেকুৱা হৈছে। যদি astrology অৰ্থাৎ জোতিষ শাস্ত্ৰৰ কথা কবলৈ অনাৰেবোল হাউচে অনুমতি দিয়ে তেন্তে মই কব পাৰো। (*A voice*—কওক, কওক) অৰ্থাৎ প্ৰত্যেক মানুহৰে একোটা guiding star (গুৰু) আছে। সেইদৰে প্ৰত্যেক দেশৰে আৰু প্ৰত্যেক পাৰ্টিৰে একোটা guiding star আছে। মানুহে নতুন পঞ্জিকা চাবলৈ কিয়নো হেপাহ কৰে থাকে যাতে তেওঁবিলাকে নতুন পঞ্জিকা চাই ভবিষ্যতত কি হ'ব কি নহব জানিব পাৰে। সেইদৰে সমস্ত বাইজেও বাজেটৰ নিমিত্তে বাট চাই থাকে যাতে

তেওঁবিলাকৰ নিমিত্তেনো কি কৰা হব আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ সুখ সম্পদ বাঢ়িবনে নাবাঢ়ে তাক জানিব পাবে। মানুহৰ guiding star বা গুৰু যি স্থানত পৰিছে সেইদৰে ভাল মন্দ নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হব। কাৰ কাৰ গুৰুৰ স্থান ক'ত ক'ত পৰিছে তাক চাওক :—

স্বর্গেচ সুখমাপ্নোতি,
পর্ব্বতেচ ধনাগমঃ।
গগনেচ মান ভঞ্জনং
ক্রোড়েচ সর্ব্ব সুখং
শঙ্খেচ মহতী লক্ষ্মীং
চক্রেচ দবিদ্রতামিতি।
সমুদ্রে ভাসনং ফলং
মরণঞ্চ রসাতলে।
ইতি বর্ষচক্রস্য লক্ষণং।

যেনে 'পর্ব্বেতেচ ধনাগমঃ' অর্থাৎ আমি যি সকলে মেম্বৰ এই শিলং পর্ব্বতলৈ আহিছোঁ, আমাৰ ধনাগম হৈছে। (*laughter*) যি বিলাকৰ guiding star (গুৰু) স্বর্গত পৰিছে, সিবিলাকৰ সুখ হৈছে। আৰু যিবিলাকৰ গুৰুৰ স্থান গগণত পৰিছে সিবিলাকৰ মান ভঞ্জন হৈছে। এতিয়া গগনত গুৰুৰ স্থান কাৰ ভাগ্যত পৰিছে সেইটো আপোনালোকে ভাবি লওক। 'ক্রোড়েচ সর্ব্বসুখং' অর্থাৎ যিবিলাক কোলাত সোমাব পাৰিছে সিবিলাকৰ সর্ব্বসুখ। 'শঙ্খেচ মহতী লক্ষ্মীং' অর্থাৎ যিবিলাকে শঙ্খ বজাব পাৰিছে বা গুণ গান কৰিব পাৰিছে প্রশংসা কৰিব পাৰিছে সিবিলাকৰ মহতী লক্ষ্মী (*laughter*), 'চক্রেচ দবিদ্রতা' অর্থাৎ যি সকলৰ চক্রত স্থান পৰিছে তেওঁলোকৰ দবিদ্রতা বাঢ়িব। যিবিলাকৰ স্থান সমুদ্রত তেওঁবিলাকৰ ফল হৈছে 'ভাসন' অর্থাৎ নাজল নাস্থল—আঁতো নাই তঁতো নাই। যাৰ বসাতলত স্থান পৰিছে তেওঁবিলাকৰ মৰিবৰ উপায়হে হৈছে। অর্থাৎ বাইজৰ স্থান বসাতলত পৰিছে আৰু বাইজৰ মৰণ মিলিছে। এয়ে বর্ষচক্রৰ লক্ষণ। এয়ে বাজেটৰো ফল—বাইজৰ মৰণৰ চিন হল।

সেই নিমিত্তে মই আপোনালোকৰ আগত কওঁ যে আমাৰ এই গতি কিহৰ নিমিত্তে হৈছে? মোৰ মনেৰে বিশেষকৈ আমালোকৰ inferiority complex of future prospectৰ কাৰণেই এনে হৈছে। যদি আপোনালোকে দোষ নধৰ মই এটা গল্প কব খোজোঁ। কমনে? (*A voice*—yes, go on let us here you) গল্পটো হৈছে এই—এজন ধোবাৰ দুটা গাধ আছিল। সেই গাধ দুটাৰ এটা চার্কাচ পার্টিয়ে কিনি লৈ গল। চার্কাচ পার্টিয়ে অনেক ঠাই ঘুৰি ঘুৰি অহি যি ঠাইৰ পৰা গাধটো নিছিল পুনৰ সেই ঠাইত উপস্থিত হলহি। তাত চার্কাচ পার্টিৰ গাধটো ৰ তাৰ পূর্ব্বৰ বন্ধু গাধটোক দেখা পালে। তেতিয়া ধোবাৰ ঘৰত থকা গাধটোৱে কলে "বন্ধু, তুমি ইমান সুখত থাকিও কেলেই ইমান শুকাই খিটাই গৈছা?" চার্কাচ পার্টিৰ গাধটোৱে উত্তৰ দিলে—'নকবা ভাই,

বহুত ঠাই ঘুৰি আহিছো ; সেই নিমিত্তেই শুকাই গৈছো'। ধোবাৰ গাধটোৱে কলে—"মই কেৱল কাপোৰ কেইখন লোকৰ ঘৰলৈ নিওঁ আৰু লোকৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা কাপোৰ লৈ আহোঁ। এয়ে মোৰ কাম আৰু বহি বহি খাওঁ। তেনেহলে তুমি আকৌ মোৰ লগলৈ গুচি আহা।" সিটো গাধই কলে—" মই আহিব নোৱাৰোঁ। কাৰণ মোৰ তাত future prospect এটা আছে। সেইটো হৈছে এই, কওঁ শুনা—চাকৰিচত দুজনী ছোৱালীয়ে ওপৰত ৰচিত ধৰি খুব খেলে। তেতিয়া ৰিংমাষ্টৰে মোক আগত ঠিয়কৈ ৰাখি কয়—'তইতৰ এজনীও যদি কেনেবাকৈ পৰি যাব, তেন্তে তোক এই গাধটোৰ লগত বিয়া দিম'। এই ছোৱালী কেইজনী কেতিয়াবা নিশ্চয় পৰি যাব পাৰে আৰু সেয়ে হলে মই সিইতৰ এজনীক বিয়া কৰিবলৈ পাম। তাত মোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ আশা আছে আৰু এয়ে মোৰ future prospects বুজিলা ? "..... (*loud laughter*).

যি সকলে আমাক ইয়ালৈ পঠিয়াইছে আৰু যি সকলৰ উপকাৰ কৰিম বুলি আমি ইলেকচনত কথা দি আহিছো, এই future prospectৰ নিমিত্তে আমি সেই সকলৰ কথা পাহৰি গৈছোঁ। মই আশা কৰোঁ আপনালোকে এনেকৈ কাম কৰিব যাতে অপোনালোকে আপনালোকৰ সমষ্টিত গৈ কব পাৰে যে আপোনালোকে তেওঁবিলাকৰ নি মতে যুদ্ধ কৰিছিল হয়, কিন্তু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিপৰীত বন্দবস্ত কৰাৰ নিমিত্তে আপোনালোকে একো ভাল কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে আৰু অহা বাৰৰ পৰা যেন তেওঁ বিলাকে ভাল মানুহ পঠিয়াবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে। মই আশাকৰোঁ বাইজৰ কেনেকৈ ভাল হব সেই বিষয়ে আপনালোকে চিন্তা কৰিব। এই কেইটা কথা কৈয়েই মই আমাৰ দৰমহা হব নালাগে বুলি কওঁ।

SRIJUT KRISHNA NATH SARMA : Sir, it has been pointed out to us that for the last six years the Assam Government was carrying on the administration by loan and that it is indebted to a large extent and is unable to pay it. Sir, an ordinary insolvent would have taken protection in an insolvency Court. The Assam Government also would have had to take the shelter of any insolvency Court, had not the Government of India remitted her past debts. Under these difficulties our Financial Minister has shown a surplus budget to the extent of about 2 lakhs. But in his anxiety for emergencies just in expectation of storms and floods that amount was reserved. But after the passing of the budget, I do not think there will be any surplus at all. A sum of about 2 lakhs had been saved and we were under the impression that the amount was going to be s ent for the redress of the people so far as primary education and relief of distressed people were concerned. These are the two most important items of expenditure so far as our poor people are concerned I do not think salaries are to be granted to the members under such financial burden of our Province. They have been coming to this Assembly in the month of April and also now and they have been getting their allowances and travelling expenses. What emergency has suddenly arisen that our members should require to be paid in a lump sum a sum of Rs.500 from the time they have taken their oath of allegiance. I do not find any necessity at all. It is rather derogatory to our position as members of this Assembly to ask salary when there is no money to spend for the good of the people. Of

course the Government of India Act allows salaries, but it is not mandatory. When you have no money you have no right to pay any salary to members. When the whole province is indebted and is on the verge of ruin, what earthly reason can there be to grant salaries to members ?

Rupees 100 a month is nothing, of course, in a country like England, in a country like America, in a country like Japan but in a province like Assam Rs.100 is a big sum. At least 12 opium addicts could be treated with that amount or three or four primary schools can be opened, or that amount can be well spent on water-supply. I submit, Sir, because of a provision in the Government of India Act we are bound to bring a salary Bill. In spite of our insolvency for the members is no good ground at all. I, therefore, request the hon. members to forego the salary at least for this year so that we may see what we may be able to do next year. We should be quite satisfied with the present allowances. I, therefore, submit that it is quite premature to bring a salary Bill at this session in such a hurry and I oppose this Bill.

SRIJUT GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse the opinion that has been expressed by my hon. friend Mr. Kamini Kumar Sen. I am quite conscious of the fact that some amount of loss will certainly be caused to the hon. members in attending the Assembly and Council Session and that their practice or business will also suffer or be dislocated to some extent. But before we decide to accept any emoluments we must look at the conditions of the people whom we have come here to represent. To-day all of us have been requesting Government to effect retrenchment as far as possible and I do not think that we have been successful in reducing the heavy expenditure that is going to be incurred to any appreciable extent. Now, Sir, we are to see to the interests of the poor raiyats first. Already we have been told that we are going to be paid 30 thousand rupees in course of to-day or to-morrow as our travelling and halting allowances and if we go to the extent of taking a salary of Rs.100 or Rs.75 a month the amount will be so huge that, as my hon. friend Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan has said, we will not be able to justify our existence here. For the present at least, I believe, we should voluntarily forego the salary that has been offered by the Government. I do not say that Government is not justified in bringing the Bill, because the Act enjoins that they should come forward with such a Bill. But it is up to us to say whether we should accept this salary or not. And I think, having regard to the wretched condition of our people we should forego this offer of emolument which has been presented before us by Government. Of course it has been mentioned that the Congress has allowed the hon. members to accept salary in other provinces, but the condition of other provinces of India are altogether different from the conditions prevailing in this province which is probably the poorest in the country. I therefore, with these few words oppose this motion for consideration of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I need not add much. The constitution provides for the salary of members. I was very severely criticised for not introducing the Bill and the fact that the Congress Working Committee also have decided to give a salary has proved that such a salary is wanted by all.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration.

(The House divided with the following result)

Ayes—65

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
3. Babu Hirendra Chandra Chakravarty.
4. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
5. Babu Kalachand Roy.
6. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
7. Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta.
8. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
9. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
10. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
11. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
12. Maulavi Abdul Bari Choudhury.
13. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
14. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
15. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
16. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
17. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
18. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
19. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
20. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
21. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
22. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
23. Maulavi Ashraf Uddin Md. Chaudhury.
24. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
25. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
26. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
27. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
28. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
29. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
30. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
31. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
32. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri.
33. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.

Noes—38

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Babu Balaram Sircar.
5. Srijut Beliram Das.
6. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
7. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
8. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
9. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
10. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
11. Srijut Gaurikanta Talukdar.
12. Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi.
13. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
14. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
15. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
16. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
17. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
18. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
19. Srijut Kameswar Das.
20. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
21. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
22. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma.
23. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.

34. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
35. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
36. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
37. Maulavi Naziruddin Ah ned.
38. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
39. The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
40. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
41. The Hon'ble Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
42. Col. A. B. Beddow.
43. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
44. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
45. Mr. W. R. Faull.
46. Mr. W. Fleming.
47. Mr. B. I. Barry.
48. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
49. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
50. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
51. Miss Mavis Dunn.
52. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
53. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
54. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
55. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
56. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
57. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
58 Mr. C. Goldsmith.
59. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
60. The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
61. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
62. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
63. Mr. P. Parida.
64. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
65. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.
24. Srijut Lakshesvar Barooah.
25. Babu Lalit Mohan Kar.
26. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
27. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
28. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
29. Srijut Paramananda Das.
30. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
31. Srijut Rajani Kanta Barooah.
32. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
33. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
34. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
35. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
36. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
37. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
38. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

Ayes being 65 and Noes 38, the motion was carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : If any hon. member wants to table any further amendments, he may do so.

(No member proposed to move any amendment.)

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : Then I am to take that there will be no further amendments except those that have already been tabled. Now I will ask Srijut Ghanashyam Das to move his amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now taken into consideration clause by clause.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : I think, it will be better to move clause 3 and I think the Hon'ble Chief Minister may move that clause 3 be taken into consideration.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move that clause 3 of the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, be now taken into consideration, and that would form part of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The motion moved is that clause 3 of the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, be taken into consideration and that would form part of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There are several amendments. The first one stands in the name of Srijut Ghanashyam Das.

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS: I beg leave of the House to move that in clause 3 of the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, for the words "thousand rupees", the word "rupee" be substituted.

Section 72 of the Government of India Act of 1935 provides that the members of the Provincial legislature shall be entitled to receive salaries. It is not compulsory upon them. My object and reasons for moving these amendments are that we the members of the House should not take any salary or emoluments.

We are here, Sir, as the representatives of the poor. We have, without any exception exhausted our eloquence over the poverty and nakedness of our brothers. So the money which would have come to us in shape of the emoluments should go to them in way of relief.

Sir, we have heard yesterday from my hon. friend Srijut Kameswar Das that nearly 60 villages in Barpeta subdivision are without food. Telegrams after telegrams carrying the news of havoc wrought by the flood are reaching us. On the other hand the provincial exchequer has been already exhausted. Under these circumstances we shall not be justified in accepting salary in this juncture of the time

Secondly, Sir, we should not degrade our position in the eyes of the Ministers and in the eyes of the public by accepting this petty sum of Rs.1,000 or Rs.1,200 per annum.

Thirdly that in the other provinces the provisions have been made for the legislators should not be made a plea here to accept the salary. The condition of Assam stands in a different footing from that of those provinces.

Fourthly, Sir, should we be justified in accepting the salary ? This will make us the whole-time servants. We will work here for utmost 60 days in a year and for that we have a daily allowance of Rs.7½ per day. This is quite sufficient. We have our own callings in life. After this we will join our own callings. So, Sir, when we cannot be whole-time servants we will not be justified in taking salary or emoluments.

Sir, in name of poverty of the people I humbly request the members of this House not to accept the emoluments. Sir with these few words, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The amendment moved is that in clause 3 of the Bill for words "Rs.1,000" the word "rupee" be substituted.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাঙৰীয়া, যি সংশোধন প্ৰস্তাৱ মাননীয় বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত ঘনশ্যাম দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে, তেখেতে এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো দাঙ্গি ধৰোতে এটা কথা কৈ গৈছে যিটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ টান পাইছো। যদি তেখেতে নিজৰ ভুল দেখি নিজে শুদ্ধ কৰিলেহেতেন মই আনন্দ পাম। তেখেতে কৈছে

যে Government of India Actৰ কোনো এটা বিধান মান্য কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এহজাৰ টকাৰ ঠাইত এটকা গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ তেখেত ইচ্ছুক হৈ এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ উপস্থিত কৰিছে। মই কওঁ ঠিক সেই ভাবৰ পৰা হলেহে মই সেই এটকাও গ্ৰহণ কাৰবলৈ অনিচ্ছুক। কাৰণ আমি কংগ্ৰেচৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা যিবিলাক মানুহ ইয়ালৈ আহিছো মই বিশ্বাস কৰোঁ আৰু মোৰ এইটো দৃঢ় ধাৰণা যে ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজাসকলৰ আশা আৰু আকাঙ্ক্ষাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে যোৱা ১৯৩৫ চনৰ Government of India Actৰ বিধান মানি সেইটো সমৰ্থন কৰি নতুন বিধান মান্য কৰিবলৈ আমি ইয়ালৈ অহা নাই। আমি আহিছো যিবিলাক বিধান ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজা সাধাৰণৰ আশা আৰু আকাঙ্ক্ষাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে যায় সেইবিলাক পৰিবৰ্ত্তন বা সংশোধন কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে বা ওকৰাবৰ নিমিত্তেহে আমি ইয়ালৈ আহিছো। সেই কাৰণে, মোৰ বিশ্বাস, আমি সেই বিধান মানি এটকা লবলৈ নহয় আমি অন্য ভাবৰ পৰাহে এনে বিধানৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছো। ভাৰতীয় প্ৰজা সাধাৰণৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যি উদ্দেশ্য লৈ কংগ্ৰেচ মহাসভাই আন্দোলন কৰিছে আৰু প্ৰজাসাধাৰণৰ কষ্ট লাঘৱ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে সেই বিষয়ে কোৱা বাহুল্য মাথোন। কিন্তু এইটো কথা ঠিক যে আমাৰ আত্মবিস্মৃত জাতিৰ আত্ম নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ক্ষমতা হাতলৈ আনিবৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ যি প্ৰয়াস সেই প্ৰয়াসত যাতে আমি সহায় কৰিব পাৰো, সেই কাৰণেই আমি ইয়াত প্ৰবেশ কৰিছোঁ। সেই উদ্দেশ্যৰ কাৰণেই সেই বিধান আমি খৰ্ব্ব কৰিবলৈ খোজোঁ আৰু সেই বিধানৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিম। মই বিশেষকৈ কওঁ যে আমি এনে এটা আদৰ্শ স্থাপন কৰিব খোজোঁ যি আদৰ্শৰ দ্বাৰা আমি পৰাধীনতা ৰূপ শৃঙ্খলৰ পৰা মুক্ত হৈ স্বাধীনতাৰ পথত আগ বাঢ়িব পাৰিম। ঠিক সেই ভাবৰ পৰাহে আমি এই বিধানৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছো।

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is of course known to the hon. members of this House what is the Congress view on this point. It is really very laudable to speak on thing, and to appropriate another thing. We have got, Sir, Mr. Satyamurthi's suggestion on the matter. It reads thus :—

"I suggest that the members of the Provincial Legislature should be paid Rs. 200 per month and should be given no daily allowance".

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: That is a personal opinion, not the decision of the Working Committee.

MAULAVI ASHRAFUDDIN MD. CHAUDHURY: Further, Sir, you find in all other Congress provinces Rs.75 has been given. So far as I am concerned I shall be very glad to know from the hon. members on the other side, who have so eloquently, so enthusiastically, and so earnestly spoken in the matter, whether they refused travelling and daily allowances during the last session or whether they are going to do so in the present and coming sessions, or whether any of them has lodged any protest against the salary acceptance.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: There is another motion in the name of Srijut Khorsing Terang, and also the same motion in the name of Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. Now, with regard to that motion it should be split up into 2 parts because one part relates to the

scale of the salary and the other relates to the manner in which payme should be made during the year. Therefore I shall ask the hon. membe to move that part of the amendment first which relates to the scale of th salary, *i.e.*, he should move that "for the words 'one thousand rupees pe annum' the words 'one hundred rupees per mensem' shall be substituted".

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MAHMUD ALI: On a point of order, Si One hon. member is sitting in the Press Gallery.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: He is quite entitled to sit there There is no bar for any member to going to any part of the Assembl Hall.

KHAN BAHADUR DEWAN EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY: মেম্বারের salary সমন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই।

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The hon. member will please mov the motion first.

KHAN BAHADUR DEWAN EKLIMUR RORA CHAUDHURY: [illegible]endment এই যে বাৎসরিক এক হজারের জায়গায় মাসিক একশ টাকা বেতন হউক।

মেম্বারের salary সম্পর্কে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে রাজা, প্রজা, ধনী, দরিদ্র কেহই নিষ্কাম ভাবে কোন কাজ কর্ম্মই করেননা; অর্থাৎ মানুষ মাত্রই কোন না কোন প্রকারের পারিশ্রমিক গ্রহণ করতঃ স্বীয় কর্ত্তব্য পালন করিয়া থাকেন। ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য দশটি প্রভিন্সেও কোন না কোন প্রকারের ভাতা নির্দ্ধারিত হইয়াছে। সুতরাং আমাদের আসাম কাউন্সিলের মেম্বারগণ ও যদি কোন প্রকার ভাতা গ্রহণ করেন তাহা হইলে ইহাতে নৈতিক অপমানের কোন কারণ ঘটবে বলিয়া আমি মনে করি না। যাহারা কাউন্সিলে প্রবেশ করিয়াছেন তাহারা কোন না কোন প্রকারের ব্যবসা করিয়াই জীবন যাত্রা নির্ব্বাহ করিয়া থাকেন। সুতরাং তাহর দেশের কাজ করিতে যাইয়া যে পর্য্যন্ত পরিমানে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইতেছেন তাহা বলাই বাহুল্য। বিশেষতঃ উকিল মোক্তার সম্প্রদায় ইহাতে যে অত্যধিক ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইবেন তাহা ব্যাখ্যা করার প্রয়োজন আছে বলিয়া আমি মনে করি না। সুতরাং প্রকৃত ভাবে যাহারা দেশসেবা ও গনসেবা করিতে উৎসুক তাহারা দিবা শূণ্য ভাবে পরিমিত ভাতা গ্রহণ করায় কোন বাধা থাকিতে পারে তাহা আমি বিশ্বাস করিনা। তবে যাহারা শুধু স্বীয় স্বার্থ আদায় করার জন্যই কাউন্সিলে প্রবেশ করিয়াছেন, মুখ্যতঃ গনসেবা করার প্রকৃতি যাহাদের আদৌ নাই তাহারা কোন বেতন বা বৃত্তি গ্রহণ করেন ইহা আমি পছন্দ করি না যদিও ইহাদিগকে এ সমস্ত কথা বলার কোন স্বার্থকতাই নাই। এ সমস্ত বিবেচনা করিয়া এবং সমস্ত Ministerial partyর এবং ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে প্রায় সমস্ত পার্টির অভিপ্রায় জ্ঞাত হইয়া আমি এই amendment উপস্থিত করিয়াছি। এবং আমি মনে করিতেছি যে গবর্ণমেণ্ট মেম্বারের salary সম্পর্কে যে প্রস্তাব আনিয়াছেন তাহা অনারেবোল মেম্বারগণের পক্ষে অনারেবোল হইবেনা। সুতরাং আমি প্রস্তাব করিতেছি যে আসাম কাউন্সিলের মেম্বারগণের মাসিক বেতন ১০০৲ টাকা এবং পূর্ব্ব নিয়মাদি বাহাল রাখিয়া প্রত্যহিক বরাদ্দ ৫৲ টাকা এবং যাতায়াতের খরচাদি পূর্ব্বানুসারে ধার্য্য করা হউক।

[The motion was put to the House by the Hon'ble Speaker.]

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then the hon. member is to move another amendment with regard to clause 3, *i.e.*, for the word "quarterly" the word "monthly" be substituted.

KHAN BAHADUR DEWAN EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURI: Sir, আমি move করিতেছি যে বৈমাসিকের জায়গায় একমাস করা হউক।

(The motion was put by the Hon'ble Speaker.)

SRIJUT GOPI NATH BARDOLOI: Sir, I consider it necessary to say a few words in reference to the amendment moved by my hon. friend Srijut Ghanashyam Das. I support that motion, and I consider it necessary to make the position of the Congress party clear with regard to that amendment.

Sir, when we sought suffrage of our constituencies, it was universally understood that we will not be responsible in causing any more burden upon the poor and helpless people whom we wanted to represent. The question of Members' salary, as I said before, Sir, was not before the electors, and we told them that we would also be trying to run the administration with as less an expenditure as it was possible for us to do.

Sir, you were pleased to refer to the resolution of the Working Committee some time before regarding the object of the Working Committee in accepting the principle of salary. It was found that the expenditure thus provided would be very much lesser than the expenditure incurred at the time when daily allowances were in vogue, but the object of the Working Committee in accepting the principle of salary as has been laid down is to be that the expenditure thus provided will be much less than the expenses that were usually incurred when these allowances were in vogue. The present scale of payment of a daily fee is to be completely overhauled, and it is with this object that the Working Committee adopted this resolution and fixed Rs.75 as a monthly salary where the Congress is in a majority. Therefore, I have to support the amendment of Srijut Ghanashyam Das. We do not propose to increase the burden on the poor ratepayers and want to stand where we were before.

On the same principle I oppose the amendment that has been tabled not only to the clauses of the Bill but also the amendment tabled by my friend Khan Bahadur Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. But I feel, as I said in reference to the Ministers' Salary Bill my cry may be a cry in the wilderness. As to what should be our position if the Salary Bill is accepted either in *toto* or in the amended form as moved by the Khan Bahadur, will depend on the direction of the Working Committee and the Provincial Congress Committee. When that point has been decided we shall be in a position to say what we will be actually drawing. What I want to say to my friend Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury is that in these matters we do not want to take his guidance, but we shall be guided by the great organization to which we belong.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. On behalf of the Government I accept the amendment moved by my hon. friend Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.

Srijut Ghanashyam Das's amendment was then put and the House divided with the following result :—

AYES—39

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Babu Balaram Sircar.
5. Srijut Beli Ram Das.
6. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
7. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
8. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
9. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
10. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
11. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar.
12. Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi.
13. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
14. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
15. Srijut Jadav Prosad Chaliha.
16. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
17. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
18. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
19. Srijut Kameswar Das.
20. Babu Kar[illegible]ni Kumar Sen.
21. Babu Karuna Sin[illegible] Roy.
22. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
23. Srijut Krishna Nath Sar[illegible]ma.
24. Babu Rabindra Na[illegible] Aditya.
25. Srijut Lakshesvar [illegible]Borooah.
26. Babu Lalit Mohan [illegible]Kar.
27. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
28. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.

NOES—60.

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
3. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
4. Mr. Naba Kumar Datta.
5. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
6. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
7. The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.
8. Maulvi Abdul Aziz.
9. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhuri.
10. Khan Bahadur Haz: Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
11. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
12. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
13. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
14. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
15. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Choudhury.
16. The Hon'ble Maulavi Md. Ali Haidar Khan.
17. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
18. Maulavi Muhammad Amiruddin.
19. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali.
20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
21. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
22. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
23. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
24. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
26. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
27. Maulavi Mabarakali.
28. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri.
29. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
30. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
31. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
32. Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya.
33. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
34. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
35. The Hon'ble Maulavi Sayid Sir Muhammad Saadulla.
36. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.

Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
Srijut Paramananda Das.
Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
Srijut Rajani Kanta Berooah.
Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
Srijut Sarkar Chandra Barua.
Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan.
Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

37. The Hon'ble Shams-ul-Ulma Maulana Abu Nasr Md. Waheed.
38. Col. A. B. Beddow.
39. Mr. A. F. Bendall.
40. Mr. J. R. Clayton.
41. Mr. W. R. Faull.
42. Mr. B. I. Barry.
43. Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.
44. Mr. D. B. H. Moore.
45. Mr. R. A. Palmer.
46. Miss Mavis Dunn.
47. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
48. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
49. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
50. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
51. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
52. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
53. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
54. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
55. The Hon'ble Rev. J J. M. Nichols-Roy.
56. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
57. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
58. Mr.P. Parida.
59. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
60. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

Ayes being 39 and Noes 60 the amendment was lost.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question before the House is that in clause 3 of the Bill in lines 2 and 3 for the words "one thousand rupees per annum" the words "one hundred rupees per mensem" shall be substituted.

The motion was put to the House and carried.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The question is that in clause 3 of the Bill in line 1 for the word "quarterly" the word "monthly" be substituted.

The motion was put to the House and carried.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move that clause 3 of the Bill as amended do form part of the Bill.

The motion was put to the House and carried.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg to move that clause 4 be now considered and do stand part of the Bill.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Against this clause there are two amendments. The first is in the name of Srijut Ghanashyam Das. But I think the amendment becomes.....

SRIJUT GHANASHYAM DAS: I do not like to move the amendment.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Then the only amendment which stands is that in the name of Srijut Khorsingh Terang and Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury. Mr. Khorsingh Terang may move his amendment.

SRIJUT KHORSINGH TERANG: I beg to move, Sir, that in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill in line 1 for the word "three" the word "five" shall be substituted.

সভাপতি মহোদয়, মই এই amendment টো move কৰি কব খোজো যে অ-াবেবাৰ মেম্বৰ সকলৰ কাৰণে দৈনিক allowance যে ৩৲ টকাকৈ ধৰি দিছে এইটো একেবাৰেই কম বুলি বিবেচনা কৰোঁ। এই খিনিত জাগাত এজন মেম্বাৰে দৈনিক খোৱা খৰচ আদিত ৪।৫ টকা নহলে নহয়। সেই কাৰণে দৈনিক allowance টো দিনে ৫৲ টকা কৰিলে ভাল বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ।

The Hon'ble the Speaker put the motion to the House.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I am not in a position to accept this amendment. My reason is that, as hon. members know, the surplus estimated is 2¼ lakhs only. Our present provision, roughly speaking, for the purpose of members of both the Houses is little over 80,000. I have calculated, Sir, by the previous clause the expenditure on account of members' salaries will be nearly double the provision that has been made. I want to keep something in reserve for emergencies. We have had various telegrams regarding floods and droughts from different parts of the province and gratuitous relief had to be given in some places. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that it would be prudent on the part of the Finance Department and the Government as a whole to increase the burden any further. On a very rough calculation, Sir, the increase in cost by this change will be very nearly Rs. 20,000.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER : The question is that in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill in line 1 for the word "three" the word "five" shall be substituted.

The motion was put and the House divided with the following result :—

AYES—48

1. Kumar Ajit Narayan Dev.
2. Babu Bipin Behari Das.
3. Srijut Jogendra Narayan Mandal.
4. Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.
5. Mr. Naba Kumar Datta.
6. Srijut Purandar Sarma.
7. Srijut Ram Nath Das.
8. Maulavi Abdul Aziz.
9. Maulavi Abdul Bari Chaudhury.
10. Khan Bahadur Hazi Abdul Majid Chaudhury.
11. Maulavi Abdul Matin Chadhury.
12. Maulavi Abdur Rahman.
13. Maulavi Syed Abdur Rouf.
14. Maulavi Md. Abdus Salam.
15. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury.
16. Maulavi Dewan Ali Raja.
17. Maulavi Muhammad Amiuddin.
18. Maulavi Muhammad Amjad Ali

NOES—39

1. Babu Akshay Kumar Das.
2. Mr. Arun Kumar Chanda.
3. Mr. Baidyanath Mookerjee.
4. Babu Balaram Sirkar.
5. Srijut Beli Ram Das.
6. Srijut Bhuban Chandra Gogoi.
7. Srijut Bipin Chandra Medhi.
8. Babu Dakshina Ranjan Gupta Chaudhuri.
9. Srijut Debeswar Sarmah.
10. Srijut Ghanashyam Das.
11. Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar.
12. Srijut Gopi Nath Bardoloi.
13. Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan.
14. Babu Harendra Narayan Chaudhuri.
15. Srijut Jadab Prosad Chaliha.
16. Srijut Jogendra Chandra Nath.
17. Srijut Jogendra Nath Barua.
18. Srijut Jogeschandra Gohain.
19. Babu Kalachand Roy.
20. Srijut Kameswar Das

19. Maulavi Ashrafuddin Md. Chaudhuri.
20. Maulavi Badaruddin Ahmed.
21. Khan Bahadur Dewan Eklimur Roza Chaudhury.
22. Maulavi Ghyasuddin Ahmed.
23. Maulavi Jahanuddin Ahmed.
24. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Keramat Ali.
25. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mahmud Ali.
26. Maulavi Matior Rahman Mia.
27. Maulavi Mabarak Ali.
28. Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhury.
29. Khan Bahadur Maulavi Mufizur Rahman.
30. Maulavi Munawwar Ali.
31. Maulavi Muzarrof Ali Laskar.
32. Maulavi Naziruddin Ahmed.
33. Maulavi Sheikh Osman Ali Sadagar.
34. Khan Sahib Maulavi Sayidur Rahman.
35. Miss Mavis Dunn.
36. Mr. Benjamin Ch. Momin.
37. Srijut Bhairab Chandra Das.
38. Srijut Bideshi Pan Tanti.
39. Srijut Binode Kumar J. Sarwan.
40. Srijut Dhirsingh Deuri.
41. Rev. L. Gatphoh.
42. Mr. C. Goldsmith.
43. Mr. Jobang D. Marak.
44. Srijut Karka Dalay Miri.
45. Srijut Khorsing Terang.
46. Mr. P. Parida.
47. Srijut Rabi Chandra Kachari.
48. Srijut Rupnath Brahma.

21. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen.
22. Babu Karuna Sindhu Roy.
23. Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin.
24. Srijut Krishna Nath Sarma.
25. Babu Rabindra Nath Aditya.
26. Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah.
27. Babu Lalit Mohon Kar.
28. Srijut Mahadev Sarma.
29. Srijut Mahi Chandra Bora.
30. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das.
31. Srijut Paramananda Das.
32. Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma.
33. Srijut Rajani Kanta Borooah.
34. Srijut Rajendra Nath Barua.
35. Srijut Sankar Chandra Barua.
36. Srijut Sarveswar Barua.
37. Babu Shibendra Chandra Biswas.
38. Srijut Siddhi Nath Sarma.
39. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

Ayes being 48 and Noes 39, the motion was carried.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: I rise on a point of order, Sir. It is this and I venture to consider it to be an important point of order. We have just now heard that the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared in the House that he was not prepared to accept the amendment, and Government opposed the amendment. In vew of that is it in order and are we progressing in the healthy path of convention when the five Hon'ble Ministers did not vote in the matter which they opposed ?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Of course the Hon'ble Chief Minister opposed this amendment.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am really thankful to my hon. friend for giving me this opportunity to clear the Government position. I am sorry I made a slip at the previous time I spoke. I should have mentioned this when I spoke earlier. The Government view is this. This is a question of salary and travelling

allowance of the hon. members themselves. If the opinion of the majority is that they should get certain salary or certain allowance I am bound to carry out their wishes. Although I said that I could not accept the amendment proposing a higher rate, I felt that Government should not take part in the voting.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that he made a slip. If he had said that when he was speaking his position would have been more clear.

SRIJUT DEBESWAR SARMAH: Has the Hon'ble Premier of the Cabinet acted in the spirit of the message that was delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy in the matter of creating convention? They opposed the motion but they did not go to vote.

BABU KAMINI KUMAR SEN: On another point of order, Sir. We have been repeatedly told by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that their responsibility is joint, but the other day we found that 4 Hon'ble Ministers went to the 'Ayes' lobby when the fifth went to the 'Noes' lobby (*Voices*:—4 remained neutral). Four Hon'ble Ministers remained neutral whereas one went to the either 'Ayes' or 'Noes' lobby. Is that an instance of joint responsibility?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Of course the Instrument of Instructions lays down that the Ministers will try to foster joint responsibility. If they do not choose to do that, they would be certainly acting against the direction contained in the Instrument of Instructions so far as the House is concerned. The House is always anxious to help the growth of rigid Parliamentary conventions. If the Hon'ble Ministers do not choose to help the growth of such conventions the hon. members will certainly drew their own conclusions. I think this much will satisfy the hon. members. I do not like to go further than this. Hon. members are certainly entitled to ask such questions to me as relate to the proceedings of the House and certainly when proceedings take such a form as would militate against the duty of the House to establish Parliamentary conventions, the members are within their right to draw my attention thereto.

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried.)

Clause 4 as amended do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried.)

Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried.)

The Short Title and Preamble of the Bill do form part of the Bill.

(The motion was carried.)

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to move that the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Bill, 1937, as amended be passed.

(The motion was put and carried.)

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1937-38.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I beg, Sir, to present the authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1937-38.

SRIJUT MAHADEV SARMA: On a point of information from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. Yesterday we by a majority of votes saved an amount of 61 thousand and odd. May we know from the Hon'ble

Minister in what way he is going to appropriate that amount and whether he is prepared to accept our suggestion that the whole amount may be earmarked and spent in the village reconstruction and development schemes.

THE HON'BLE MAULAVI SAIYID SIR MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Sir, it is too early for me to say how that sum will be appropriated. I can assure the House that the suggestion made by them will be duly considered.

DRAWING OF SALARY BY MEMBERS

KHAN BAHADUR DEWAN EKLIMUR ROZA CHAUDHURY: Sir, আমি একটা কথা বলিতে চাই। যাহারা আমার amendmentএ আপত্তি করিয়াছেন এবং মেম্বারদের salary নিবার জন্য অনিচ্ছা প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন, তাহারা যদি এই মেম্বার salary না নেন তাহা হইলে আমি তাহাদের সঙ্গে আছি। কিন্তু এত কথা বলার পরেও যদি ইহা গ্রহণ করেন তাহা হইলে তাহারা আমাকে সঙ্গে রাখিবেন কি?

THE HON'BLE THE SPEAKER: With thanks to the hon. members for the co-operation that I got in conducting the deliberations of this House during this important and heavy session of the House I am now reading a message from His Excellency the Governor proroguing this Assembly :—

In exercise of the power conferred by clause (*b*) of sub-section (2) of section 63 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Robert Niel Reid, hereby progue the Assam Legislative Assembly, at the conclusion of its meeting the 1st September 1937.

R. N. REID."

A. K. BARUA,

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

SILLONG,
21st October 1937.

1-54 D

APPENDIX A

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No.310 by Maula... Abdul Bari Chaudhury to be put on 1st September 193...

Name of districts	Water supply	Village roads	Village sanitation	Discretionary grants for public utility	Tota...
1. Cachar	17,500	5,400	1,200	5,600	29,7...
2. Sylhet	1,00,000	18,150	6,800	8,000	,32,9...
3. Khasi and Jaintia Hills	4,000	4,000	..	1,000	9,0...
4. Naga Hills.. ..	5,000	..	..	,250	6,2...
5. Lushai Hills ..	4,500	4,500	..	1400	10,...
6. Goalpara	36,460	12,600	1,350	3,1...	53,...
7. Kamrup	41,680	12,400	10,450	5,0...	9,...
8. Darrang	18,760	7,450	2,160	3,4...	1,...
9. Nowgong	20,840	7,500	5,000	3,40	6,7...
10. Sibsagar	27,550	12,800	8,345	3,250	51,9...
11. Lakhimpur	20,279	9,100	4,695	3,100	37,1...
12. Garo Hills	900	6,100	..	1,250	8,2...
13. Sadiya Frontier Tract	2,000	..	..	..	2,0...
14. Balipara Frontier Tract	500	..	..	..	5...
Total ..	2,99,969	1,00,000	40,000	39,891	4,79,8...

APPENDIX B

The 28th July 1937

No.2602-L.S.-G.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 296(2)(i) of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 (Assam Act I of 1923), as subsequently amended, the Governor of Assam is pleased to make the following rule for the division of the Dibrugarh Municipality into wards and for fixing the number of members to be elected for each of such wards. This rule supersedes that published in Notification No. 459-L.S.-G., dated the 7th February 1925.

DIBRUGARH MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality shall be divided into seventeen wards with the boundaries noted below. Each ward shall elect the number of members stated against it.

Name and boundaries of each ward	Number of elected members for each ward
1. Amaraguri Ward North—The Dibru river, from the mouth of the Tapajan to the end of Bever street. East—Bever street and the Trunk road up to the point where it crosses the Tapajan. South—The Tapajan from its junction with the Trunk road to the Dibru river. West—The Brahmaputra river.	1
2. North Amolaputty Ward North—The Tapajan from the Dibru river to the place where it crosses the Trunk road. East—The Trunk road from its junction with the Tapajan to the place where it crosses the railway line. South—The railway line from its junction with the Trunk road to its junction with the Chowkidinghee road : thence the Chowkidinghee road to the South-East corner of *dag* No. 10 : thence the road to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 13. West—The Municipal boundary from the South-West corner of *dag* No. 13 to the North East corner of *dag* No. 3 : thence the Brahmaputra river to the place where it meets the Tapajan.	1
3. South Amolaputty Ward North—The Railway line from its junction with the Trunk road to its junction with the Kafirbari road : from this junction the Chowkidinghee road to the South-East corner of *dag* No. 10 : from this corner, the road, to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 13. East—The Trunk road from its junction with the railway line to the South-East corner of *dag* No. 173. South—The Municipal boundary from the South-East corner of *dag* No.173 to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 104. West—The Municipal boundary from the South-West corner of *dag* No. 104 to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 13.	1

Name and boundaries of each ward	Number of elected members for each ward
4. Kayaputty Ward North—The Dibru river, from the end of Bever Street to the end of Marwari road. East—The Marwari Road, from the Dibru river to the place where it crosses the Trunk Road. South—The Trunk Road, from its junction with the Marwari Road, to its junction with Bever Street. West—Bever Street.	1
5. Kamarputty Ward— North—The Trunk Road, from its junction with Bever Street, to its junction with Cole Road. East—Cole road, from its junction with the Trunk Road, to the place where it crosses the Tapajan. South—The Tapajan, from its junction with Cole road to the place where it crosses the Trunk Road. West—The Trunk road, from its junction with the Tapajan, to its junction with Bever Street.	1
6. Kalibari Ward— North—The Tapajan, from the place where it is crossed by the Trunk Road to the place where it crosses Cole road. East—Cole road, from its junction with the Tapajan, to its junction with the Rehabari road: from there the Rehabari road to its junction with the road which passes, between the Ford Agency of the Planters' Stores and Agency Company Limited and the Loco Shed of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited to the place where the road meets the railway line. South—The Railway line from its junction with the road which passes between the Ford Agency of the Planters' Stores and Agency Company, Limited and the Loco Shed of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited to the place where it crosses the Trunk road. West—The Trunk road, from its junction with the Railway line to the place where it crosses the Tapajan.	1
7. New Bazar Ward— North—The Trunk road, from its junction with the Cole road to the place where it crosses the Marwari road. East—The Marwari road, from its junction with the Trunk road to the place where it meets the Rehabari road. South—The Rehabari road, from junction with the Marwari road to its junction with the Cole road. West—Cole road, from its junction with the Rehabari road to the place where it meets the Trunk road.	1

Name and boundaries of each ward	Number of elected members for each ward
8. Rehabari Ward— North—The Dibru river, from the end of the Marwari road to the end of the Police tank road. East—The Police tank road, to its junction with Vetch Street: thence Church Street, to its junction with the Trunk road: from the latter place, the Mankata road, to its junction with the Rehabari road. South—The Rehabari road, from its junction with the Mankata road to its junction with the Marwari road. West—The Marwari Road from its junction with the Rehabari road up to the Dibru river.	1
9. Medical Ward— North—The Dibru river, from the end of the Police tank road to the end of Store Street: from the latter place, the Red road to its junction with Lodge Street. East—Lodge Street from its junction with the Red road to its junction with Morton road: from the latter place, Hospital road to the place where it meets the Trunk road: thence the Town road to the place where it meets the Khaliamari road. South—The Khaliamari road, from its junction with the Town road to its junction with the Mankata road. West—The Mankata road from its junction with the Khaliamari road to its junction with the Trunk road: thence Church Street to its junction with Vetch Street: from there the Police tank road, to the place where it meets the Dibru river.	1
10. Tinkunia Ward— North—The Red road, from the end of Lodge Street to the end of the Boundary road. East—Boundary road from its junction with the Red road to its junction with the Polo ground road. South—The Polo ground road from its junction with boundary road to its junction with the Tinkunia road: from there the Trunk road to its junction with the Hospital road. West—Hospital road, from its junction with the Trunk road to its junction with Morton road: from there, Lodge Street to the place where it meets the Red road.	1
11. Graham Bazar Ward— North—The Trunk road from the end of Town road to the place where it meets the Polo ground road. East—The Trunk road from the place where it meets the Polo ground road to the North-East corner of *dag* No. 612.	1

Name and boundaries of each ward	Numbe memb

South—From the North-East corner of *dag* No. 612 a straight line along the northern boundaries of *dags* Nos. 612, 610, 609 and 607, to the North-West corner of *dag* No. 607: from this point the Feeder road which runs South of and parallel to the Teliputty road, to its junction with the Town road.

West—The Town road from its junction with the Feeder road which runs South of and parallel to the Teliputty road to its junction with the Trunk road.

12. Eastern Gabharu Pathar Ward—

North—The Polo ground road from its junction with the Trunk road up to the Boundary road: from there along the boundary road to its junction with the Cantonment road from there along the Cantonment road to the boundary pillar at the North-East corner of *dag* No. 666.

East—From the North-East corner of *dag* No. 666, the Municipal boundary, to the Cadastral boundary pillar at the North-East corner of *dag* No. 909.

South—The Municipal boundary from the Cadastral boundary pillar at the North-East corner of *dag* No.909 to the Pillar at the South-East corner of *dag* No. 915 on the Trunk road.

West—The Trunk road from the boundary pillar at the South-East corner of *dag* No. 915 to its junction with the Polo ground road.

13. Western Gabharu Pathar Ward—

North—The Feeder road which runs South of and parallel to the Teliputty road, from its junction with the Town road to the North-East corner of *dag* No.607: thence a straight line along the Northern boundaries of *dags* Nos. 607, 609, 610 and 612 to the North-East corner of *dag* No. 612.

East—The Trunk road from the North-East corner of *dag* No. 612 to its junction with the New Workshop road.

South—The New Workshop road, from its junction with the Trunk road to its junction with the Khaliamari and Town roads.

West—The Town road, from its junction with the new Work-shop and Khaliamari roads to its junctions with the Feeder road, which runs South of and parallel to the Teliputty road.

14. Khaliamari Ward—

North—The Rehabari road from its junction with the road which passes between the Ford Agency of the Planters' Stores and Agency Company, Limited and the Loco Shed of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited to its junction with the Mankata road: from there the Khaliamari road, to its junction with the Town road and the New Workshop road.

Name and boundaries of each ward	Number of elected members for each ward
East—The New Workshop road from its junction with the Khaliamari and Town roads to the Municipal boundary pillar opposite *dag* No.559. South—The Railway line from the Municipal boundary pillar opposite *dag* No.559 to the place where it meets the Southern end of the road, which passes between the Ford Agency of the Planters' Stores and Agency Company, Limited and the Loco Shed of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited. West—The road which passes between the Ford Agency of the Planters' Stores and Agency Company, Limited and the Loco Shed of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited from the place where it meets the Railway line to its junction with the Rehabari road.	
15. Chowkidinghee Ward— North—The Railway line from its junction with the Santipara road No. 2 to the North-East corner of *dag* No.3035. East—The Municipal boundary from the North-East corner of *dag* No.3035 to the South-West corner of *dag* No.2985: thence the Mankata road, from the South-East corner of *dag* No. 2985 to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 411. South—The Municipal boundary, from the South-East corner of *dag* No.411 to the South-West corner of *Dag* No. 358. West—The Cremation ground road from its junction with the Municipal boundary to its junction with the Chowkidinghee road: thence the Chowkidinghee road to its junction with the Purnananda road: thence the Purnananda road to the place where it crosses the Feeder road: thence the Feeder road to its junction with the Santipara road No.2: thence the Santipara road No.2 to the Railway line.	1
16. Santipara Ward— North—The Railway line from the end of Santipara road No. 6 to the end of Santipara road No. 2. East—Santipara road No. 2 from the Railway line to its junction with the Feeder road, thence the Feeder road, to the place where it crosses the Purnananda road: thence the Purnananda road to its junction with the Chowkidinghee road. South—The Chowkidinghee road, from its junction with the Purnananda road to the place where it meets the Goshala road.	1

Name and boundaries of each ward	Number of elected members for each ward
West—Goshala road up to the place where it ends in the pathar: thence a straight line through the pathar to the southern end of Santipara road No.6: thence Santipara road No. 6 upto the Railway line.	
17. Chapari Ward—	1
North—The Railway line from the place where it crosses the Trunk road to the end of Santipara road No. 6.	
East—Santipara road No. 6, upto the place where it ends in the pathar: thence a straight line through the pathar to the end of the Goshala road: thence the Goshala road to its junction with the Chowkidinghee road: thence the Cremation ground road, to the South-West corner of *dag* No. 358 on the Municipal Boundary.	
South—The Municipal boundary, from the end of the Cremation ground road to the South-East corner of *dag* No. 173 on the Trunk road.	
West—The Trunk road from the South-East corner of *dag* No.173 to the place where it crosses the Railway line.	

C. S. MULLAN,
Secretary to the Government of Assam, Edn. & L.S.-G. Departments.

See Index in part II of 1937

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